



Commonwealth of Dominica Economic Citizenship Program



Guide of Reference

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While being a citizen of one country, you may have the need to acquire a citizenship and passport of another country.

An alternative citizenship and passport of a decent country with good international reputation may bring you a number of advantages, such as:

- easy travel to certain first world countries with no visa requirements;
- more personal safety when traveling to specific countries;
- insurance for you and your family against unexpected personal, political or economical strife;
- better choice of places to live;
- good business instrument for expansion of your investment and entrepreneurial abilities;
- improvement of your taxation regime;
- asset and privacy protection.

Most countries have in place the according laws for regulation of granting citizenship to aliens. You can normally qualify for citizenship of another country on the grounds of birth on its territory, marriage, lineage or religious affiliation. If none is the case, there is an option of naturalization. The latter normally requires several years of permanent residence in a given country, 3 to 10 years, plus to character and some other requirements.

However, there exist quicker options. Some countries maintain **economic citizenship programs** granting citizenship to foreign investors and their families for a significant contribution to the country's economy. They also call it **citizenship-through-investment programs**.

Economic citizenship programs are instant in their character, since the investor is being granted citizenship with no requirements of permanent residence in the country during a certain period.

At the present moment, there are only three countries in the world providing for legal economic citizenship programs. Those are the Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Austria.

Current terms and conditions of the citizenship program run by the Dominican Government make it virtually the best option comparing to other countries.

Introduction to Dominica

The Commonwealth of Dominica (*to be distinguished from the Spanish-speaking Dominican Republic*), known as “the Nature Island of the Caribbean”, is a green tropical paradise, one of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean. It lies between the French overseas territories of Guadeloupe and Martinique and is famous for its practically untouched nature – green mountains, countless rivers and waterfalls.

It has one of the highest rates in the Caribbean in a NatGeo islands survey. In 1998 Dominica’s Morne Trois Pitons National Park was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

In 1997 Dominica became the first Caribbean country to participate in the work of Green Globe in order to make Dominica a model ecotourism destination.

The area of about 300 square miles (750 sq km) is a home to approximately 70,000 people mainly of African descent, few indigenous Carib population - last in the Caribbean, and recently increasing white and Chinese population. About 20,000 of them live in Roseau, the capital.

In 1978 Dominica was granted independence by the United Kingdom. It is an independent state with parliamentary democracy and efficient judiciary system based on English common law. President is the Head of the State, with Prime Minister being the Head of the Government.

English is the official language. French dialect (Creole) is widely spoken.

The currency is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD or EC\$), which is very stable and has an exchange rate of EC\$ 2.70 for US\$ 1.00.

Dominica is a member of CARICOM, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Commonwealth of Nations, United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Organization of American States (OAS). The country maintains missions in Washington, New York, London, and Brussels and is represented jointly with other Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) members in Canada.

Benefits of passport of the Commonwealth of Dominica

Dominica recognizes dual citizenship, and you are not required to renounce your other citizenships. Besides that, Dominica does not notify authorities of your country of residence or citizenship on your Dominican citizenship.

You are not required to reside in Dominica to keep your citizen’s status.

It's safe for traveling. The country has a good international image and being a Dominican is excluding a number of possible travel problems by definition.

Dominican passport allows **free international travel to more than 100 countries** and territories where no visa required at all, or you easily get a visa upon arrival. The list includes United Kingdom, Hong Kong, South Korea, China, Singapore and most British Commonwealth countries. And for those countries where a visa is still required, you normally can obtain it with minimum formalities within a couple of days.

You can also extend your visa-free access by obtaining a residence permit in an appropriate country. For example, if you obtain a residence permit in Canada, you will be able to travel to the United States, same as a residence permit of one of the Schengen states gives you a visa-free access to any European country.

Being a Commonwealth citizen, you can count on certain privileges in the United Kingdom to study and work after graduation. As Dominica is a member of CARICOM, you enjoy privileges in all CARICOM countries as to working and employment.

You get virtually the **same rights as if you were born in Dominica**, i.e. you can vote, purchase property, come, live and work in Dominica, if you wish. You enjoy a tax-free status on foreign income, capital gains, gift, wealth and inheritance tax. Your worldwide income is liable to taxation in Dominica only if you reside in there.

You are granted citizenship for life and it's not revocable. Issued passports are valid for 10 years. Passports for children under 16 years old are being issued for 5 years. Expired passports or those with no free visa pages left can be easily renewed for a small fee at the immigration and passport office in Dominica or at any Dominican consulate. The promoting agency will assist you to renew your passports with no need to personally travel to Dominica or its consulates.

Dominican citizenship is the most affordable option and the one quicker to obtain. It requires a US\$ 75,000 donation for a single option and US\$ 100,000 for a family option, and normally takes 2-5 months. By way of comparison, St. Kitts and Nevis program requires a minimum of US\$ 200,000 in donation (single option) or US\$ 350,000 in investments and takes 3-10 months to accomplish. Austria has much more substantial financial expectations from its investors. There is no statutory minimum, but US\$ 4 millions would be reasonable, plus significant achievements are to be brought along with the investments.

With the Dominica program, you don't need to make a monetary donation in advance. You place the funds designated for donation on the governmental escrow bank account and until the application is approved, they are not released to the Government.

Legal Background

Economic citizenship program of the Commonwealth of Dominica is one of only three currently existing official programs of that kind in the world. The other two programs are run by St. Kitts and Nevis in the Caribbean and Austria in Europe.

Dominica's citizenship program is based on the Chapter VII, Section 101 of the Constitution, stipulated that citizenship can be granted under the Naturalization, and Citizenship Act, stipulated that persons who had been continuously resident in Dominica for five (5) years could apply for naturalization and may be eligible for citizenship on payment of prescribed fees.

Amendment to the Citizenship Act in 1993 introduced a concept of Economic Citizenship and waived a residency requirement for investors making an investment in the amount and form stipulated by the Government.

Investment Options

The Government of Dominica requires a cash investment in the form of donation to the Government. There are two options: Single and Family.

1 Under **Family option**, investor is to make a donation of US\$ 100,000. This investment qualifies a family of four members: the main applicant, spouse and two children under eighteen (18).

An additional US\$ 15,000 is required for each of the two children who turned 18 but has yet to become 21.

An additional contribution of US\$ 25,000 is required for every other child under twenty-one (21).

Any person in the family over twenty-one (21) is required to apply separately under Single option.

2 Investor under **Single option**, whether single or married, is to make a donation of US\$ 75,000.

Other Requirements

- investors must be over 21 years of age;
- all applicants must have no criminal records;
- application must be on the prescribed form and all necessary supporting documentation must be provided;
- the investor shall deposit the stipulated investment amount into the designated governmental account at the National Commercial Bank of Dominica. This amount shall not be withdrawn from the account unless the application is withdrawn, rejected or approved (in either of the first two cases the applicant will be refunded);
- the applicant (or the main applicant in case of Family option) is to travel to Dominica for a personal interview with a government appointed committee or committee members. It is also possible to arrange an interview in your country of residence for an extra fee.
- processing of applications for economic citizenship can take at least eight (8) weeks;
- all applicants for economic citizenship must have a licensed local promoting agent.

Additional Expenses

Agent processing fees are US\$ 15,000 for a single applicant and US\$ 25,000 for a family unit. Fees for due diligence check by a detective agency normally vary from US\$ 3,000 to US\$ 10,000.

Government registration fees are: government application fee US\$ 1,000 (per application), naturalization fee US\$ 550 (per applicant), government processing fee US\$ 200 (per applicant), stamp fee US\$ 15 (per applicant).

Procedural Steps

Step 1. Preparation of Applications

Once you are ready to proceed, we issue an invoice for agent processing fees associated with your participation in the economic citizenship program. Once the invoice is paid, we commence the procedure.

We assist you on every step as you move forward through completion of applications, preparation of personal documents and further procedures up to the moment you are granted citizen's status and have your new passport.

Please familiarize yourself with the list of the documents you are to prepare. You'll find it further in this document.

Step 2. Due Diligence Investigation

We contact the international detective agency approved by the Government of Dominica for the conduct of due diligence investigations. The agency estimates the cost of the investigation for your case and issues the according invoice to be paid to proceed further. These fees are not refundable and vary from case to case.

Background investigation is normally a time-consuming process, and the needed time depends on your particular circumstances (for example, how many countries are involved in verification procedure, etc.).

Step 3. Investment Deposits

When the results of your due-diligence check are ready, your application is to be carefully considered by the Financial Services Unit. Upon receipt of a comfort letter from the Minister of Finance and Social Security in this regard, you are to deposit the stipulated investment amount to a special governmental Citizenship account (US\$ 75,000 under Single option, US\$ 100,000 or more if you have more children, under Family option).

The Government will not transfer the deposited investment funds from this account for further use, until naturalization certificates have been issued to you and your family. In case the application is withdrawn or rejected, **you will be refunded for the total amount of deposit** (net of bank charges and exchange rate differential) within one (1) month of the rejection or withdrawal of the application.

Step 4. Interview

At about the same time, we arrange for you an interview by a government-appointed committee or committee members.

The interview is mandatory and cannot be waived. It is normally conducted in Dominica. There is an option, however, to arrange for an interview outside of Dominica. An extra fee of US\$ 3,000 should be paid plus full airfare, hotel accommodation and per diem for 3 members of the committee.

The interview is conducted in English, so you are expected to have a basic knowledge of the language and be able to verbally communicate in English. However, there are translators approved by the Government available to assist you in case you are not fluent with the language.

The interview can be arranged not earlier than in one week after all documents are submitted and approved by the Government.

It is normal to wait for up to one (1) month for the results of the interview. The application then is forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Labour responsible for granting the economic citizenship.

Step 5. Taking of Oath, Certificates of Naturalization and Procurement of Passports

At the time you arrive for the interview, we arrange for you to sign an Oath of Allegiance before a Notary Public (Justice of Peace, or Commissioner of Oaths). Parents sign the Oath on behalf of the minor children (0-16).

At this stage, a **Certificate of Naturalization is issued** in the name of each applicant. We then can apply for your passports.

As soon as the passports are ready, we forward you the Certificates of Naturalization and passports by courier mail or as otherwise agreed with you.

Time necessary to obtain Dominican citizenship and passport

The law provides for the process time of **two (2) months**. The effective time needed for the whole procedure varies from case to case. You should be aware that a significant part of the time is needed for due diligence agency vetting procedures and depends on your particular circumstances.

Costs and Expenses

The effective costs of obtaining Dominican citizenship and passport may vary from case to case. To get a preliminary quotation, please contact us.

Documents Required for Application

1. Application Form 12 must be completed in duplicate for all persons applying for Dominican citizenship, children included. A parent or legal guardian of applicants under eighteen (18) years of age must sign the application Form 12 on behalf of the minor. All Form 12s must be notarized to be complete. Reproductions of the Form 12 are accepted. The section of Form 12 labeled "REFERENCE" can be left undone.
2. Two (2) original personal references (Not Professional References) for the investor, spouse and any child over 18 years old. Testimonials should include a paragraph about the referee, who must be acquainted with the applicant for at least five (5) years. Identical testimonials will not be accepted. Also testimonials should not be from family members. An original letter of recommendation from the Principal/Dean of the school or university for children between 12 and 18 years old.
3. One (1) original Professional reference for the investor. References should be from person who has been acquainted with the investor's work for at least three (3) years.
4. One (1) original recommendation from the investor's banker (Not a certificate of Deposit/ Bank Statement). The investor must be a client of the bank for at least two (2) years. The recommendation should contain the contact information for the bank. Unsigned bank recommendations will not be accepted.
5. Original Letter of Employment for the investor. If self-employed most recent audited financial statement of the business.
6. Original affidavit by investor stating source of funds.
7. Marriage certificate where applicable. If an applicant is divorced and has remarried then a notarized copy of the Dissolution of the Marriage is required.
8. A letter of application addressed to the Honourable Minister responsible for Citizenship requesting citizenship is required of the investor or the head of the family applying for citizenship stating the reason(s) for applying for economic citizenship.
9. Original Police clearance certificate or a similar document provided by a law enforcement agency confirming the absence of a criminal record is required of all applicants sixteen (16) years and over. Police records are required from country of birth, citizenship and residence (where the applicant has lived for six (6) months or more) if different. Police records are required from a County/State and at Federal Level. All police records must be accompanied by a set of fingerprints. For children twelve to fifteen (12-15), sworn affidavit by parent that child does not have criminal record.
10. Four certified passport size photos. On the reverse side of each photo a notary public should endorse the following statement: "I certify that is a true likeness of the applicant _____".
11. Birth certificate for all applicants (please prepare 2 certified copies of each birth certificate).

12. Notarized copies of University/College diplomas.
13. Completed medical form for all applicants. Applicants between the ages of 0-5 years will not be required to take an HIV test.
14. A detailed resume/business background report is required of all applicants who are working adults. The occupation of all working adults must be clearly indicated.
15. Completed Disclosure Form for all applicants over 16 years old.
16. Statutory declaration attesting that the information submitted in the application package is correct. If the applicant is experiencing difficulties in obtaining a statutory declaration, the document may be processed in Dominica.
17. Any other document deemed necessary by the Minister.

Documents should not be pre-date the submission of the application to the Dominican authorities by more than three (3) months.

How to Initiate the Process

Should you require more information or be ready to proceed with obtaining citizenship of the Commonwealth of Dominica, please contact us:

Offshore Advisor / ISLA Associates Ltd.

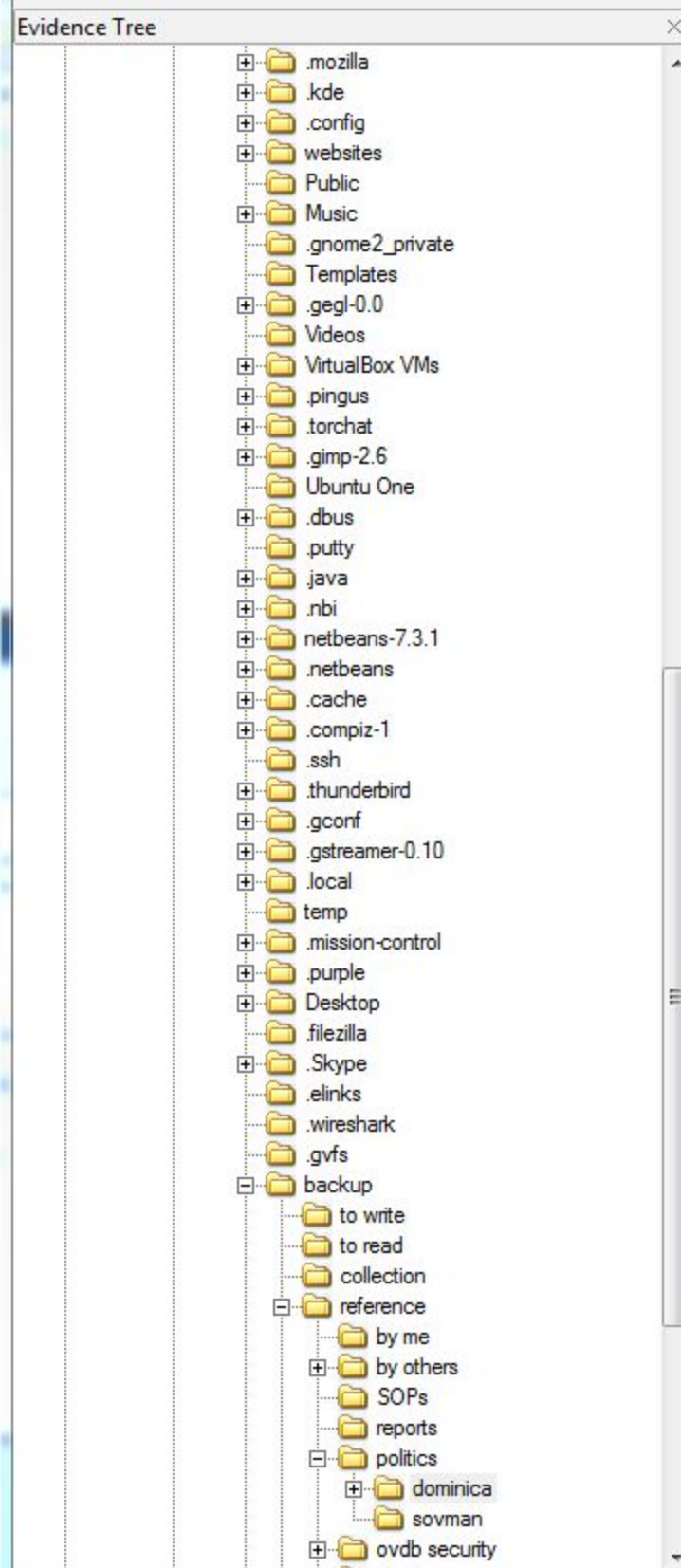
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File List

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
accounting	4 KB	Directory	9/5/2012 1:10:48 AM
other	4 KB	Directory	7/16/2012 5:49:57 PM
1-783-applicant-information-form-121511_complete.pdf	37 KB	Regular File	5/1/2012 11:10:42 PM
AFFIDAVIT OF SOURCE OF FUNDS.docx	11 KB	Regular File	5/2/2012 9:47:33 PM
applicant_fd_258.pdf	73 KB	Regular File	5/2/2012 10:21:09 PM
Bishops_ConsentForm.doc	266 KB	Regular File	7/28/2012 3:15:44 PM
credit_card_payment_complete.pdf	144 KB	Regular File	5/1/2012 11:12:45 PM
disclosure_form.pdf	44 KB	Regular File	7/12/2012 7:21:35 PM
disclosure_form_partial.pdf	160 KB	Regular File	5/1/2012 10:31:31 PM
Documents required for Due diligence.doc	28 KB	Regular File	5/3/2012 3:53:09 PM
dominica visa list 1st dec 2011.pdf	27 KB	Regular File	3/15/2012 1:20:07 AM
dominica-economic-citizenship 2011.pdf	302 KB	Regular File	3/15/2012 1:20:34 AM
final_checklist.pdf	23 KB	Regular File	4/5/2012 2:51:02 AM
form_12.pdf	289 KB	Regular File	5/1/2012 11:36:15 PM
FSU Comfort letter- Ross Ulbricht.pdf	24 KB	Regular File	11/3/2012 7:36:34 PM
medical_questionnaire.pdf	42 KB	Regular File	4/5/2012 2:50:57 AM
RossUlbrichtResume.doc	25 KB	Regular File	7/16/2012 6:05:24 PM
RossUlbrichtResume.pdf	58 KB	Regular File	7/16/2012 6:05:49 PM
Sample questions for interview.doc	84 KB	Regular File	4/5/2012 12:44:57 AM
Statutory Declaration[1].doc	13 KB	Regular File	10/4/2012 7:37:57 PM
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Properties

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General

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