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Expiry date added to postal receipts for residence permit application

The immigration authorities have introduced updates to the residence permit application process, effective November 11th, 2024. These updates apply to applications submitted through Poste Italiane counters and aim to reduce errors and improve document management by postal staff.



One key change is the addition of an expiry date (data di scadenza) on the postal receipt for the residence permit application (Form 22AO), as shown in the photo below. This expiry date is automatically calculated and set to a maximum of 9 months from the date the application is accepted.

As a result, postal receipts now have a validity of 9 months. This is expected to encourage Immigration Police Offices to adhere to the legal timeline of 60 days for issuing residence permits—although this timeline is rarely met, with appointments for fingerprints issued sometimes after 1 year or even more from application. If the deadline is not respected, applicants may face challenges when traveling or proving their legal status in the country while their application is still pending.



The new postal receipt model is being introduced gradually, and not all post offices throughout Italy currently issue receipts with an expiry date.

However, there is no clear guidance on what actions applicants should take if the receipt expires before the residence permit is issued. According to the circular letter announcing the change, applicants with receipts close to expiry may need to request a new appointment at the Immigration Police Office. Unfortunately, securing appointments can be difficult, as authorities are often unresponsive.

Another possible solution could involve submitting a new application at the post office to obtain a fresh postal receipt. However, this might create confusion and unnecessary administrative burden, as a new application would generate a different case number for the same user and the same request, potentially complicating the processing of the residence permit.



Temporary Protection Permits for Ukrainian nationals

Decree-Law No. 202 of December 27, 2024, extends residence permits for temporary protection granted to Ukrainian refugees under Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1836 until March 4, 2026. Holders of residence permits issued under the temporary protection regulation may apply for renewal by submitting a request to the competent authorities. However, such permits may be revoked before their expiration if temporary protection is terminated, as stipulated by the European Union.

The decree also confirms the possibility of converting these permits into work residence permits, based on the activities carried out.



Stricter Family Reunification Rules in Italy: Key Updates and Exceptions for Foreign Nationals



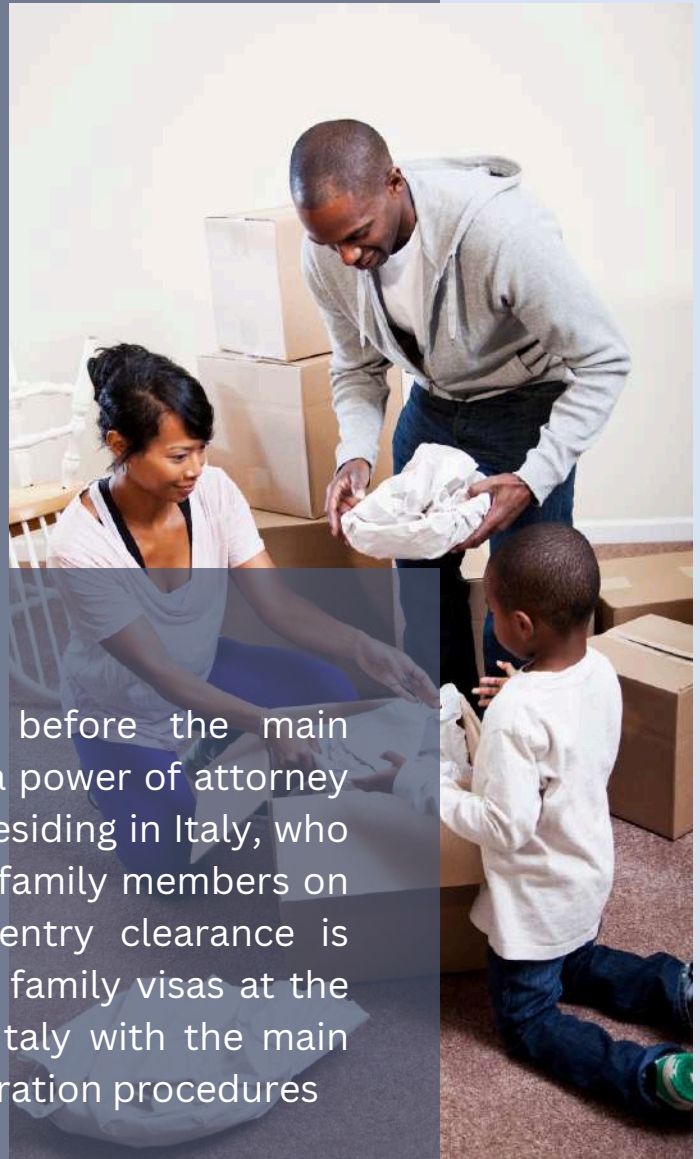
In December, the Italian government implemented stricter requirements for family reunification applications submitted by foreign nationals residing in the country. With the exception of individuals holding residence permits for international protection, foreign nationals are now required to complete two continuous years of legal residence in Italy before applying for family reunification for eligible family members, including spouses, disabled adult children, and parents under specific conditions.

Notably, minor children under 18 remain eligible for reunification without the two-year residence requirement.

Authorities have now clarified the following:

Family members accompanying the applicant: The possibility of entering Italy with the family members accompanying procedure remains allowed notwithstanding the new rules. In fact, the law allows filing an entry clearance application for family members of foreign national holders of a one-year entry visa for subordinate work or for self-employment, or for study or religious purposes.

The procedure should be started before the main applicant enters Italy and it requires a power of attorney from the main applicant to a person residing in Italy, who can apply for the entry clearance for family members on behalf of the foreigner. Once the entry clearance is issued, family members apply for the family visas at the Italian consulate and then travel to Italy with the main applicant to start the in-country registration procedures



- EU Blue Card and ICT transfers: For holders of an EU Blue Card residence permits and those with ICT residence permits (Article 27-quinquies, directive 2014/66/UE), family reunification is not subject to the two-year residence requirement. Special provisions apply, allowing family reunification regardless of the duration of the residence permit.

- Investors: For investors visa holders, entry with accompanying family members remain possible (therefore if entering at the same time as the investor visa holder, the 2 years waiting period does not apply)

It is to be noted that in Italy family permits can be obtained under 3 different procedures:

1

Accompanying family members (familiari al seguito): for entry at the same time as the main applicant, further to the issuance of a family entry clearance to a delegate of the main applicant (notarised power of attorney required). The main applicant must be in possession of a one-year entry visa for subordinate work or for self-employment, or for study or religious purposes. This applies to investor visa holders as well. Once the clearance is issued, family members apply for a family visa at the Italian consulate in country of residence before travelling to Italy together with the main applicant to start registration formalities and apply for the residence permit.

Family reunification (ricongiungimento familiare): for entry once the main applicant has already established in Italy. Main applicant must apply for a family clearance further to which family members can obtain family visas and travel to Italy to join the main applicant and start the in-country registration formalities and apply for the residence permit. According to the new rules, this procedure can be started only after the main applicant has completed 2 continuous years of legal residence in Italy

2

3

Family cohesion/on-site family reunion (coesione familiare/ricongiungimento in deroga): same as family reunification, this process can now be started only after 2 years of main applicant's legal and continuous residence in Italy. Under this process, family members enter Italy as tourists and apply for a family residence permit directly in Italy, without obtaining a family visa first.

Citizenship by Descent: Increase in Application Consular Fee



Following the implementation of the new Budget Law effective January 1, 2025, several Italian Consulates are progressively adjusting the fees for applications for the recognition of Italian citizenship by descent (*iure sanguinis*).

The Application Consular Fee, previously set at approximately 300 euros, has been increased to 600 euros per application, as established by Article 1, paragraph 639, of the 2025 Budget Law.

For example, at the Italian Consulate in Philadelphia, this increase corresponds to \$643.70 USD for the period from January 1 to March 31, 2025.



Based on our review, all the Consulates of US have already implemented the new fee structure.

We recommend applicants check the official website of their respective Consulate to confirm the updated fees and plan accordingly for the consular service charges.

Italian Citizenship by Residence: A possible reduction of the residence requirement from 10 to 5 years

Constitutional Court of Italy has ruled that the repeal referendum is admissible.

Following the collection of over 500,000 signatures, Yesterday, January 20, 2025, the Constitutional Court of Italy has ruled that the repeal referendum on the residency requirements for applying for Italian citizenship is constitutionally admissible.

As a result of this ruling, Italian citizens will soon have the opportunity to participate in a national referendum, where they will be asked to express their views on the proposed reduction of the residence requirement for non-EU foreign adults from 10 years to 5 years.

This referendum is set to take place within a window between April 15 and June 15, 2025.



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