

Registration of residence

Residence registration means the entry of residence data in the Population Register.

Residence data is necessary for making information exchange and cooperation between the state, local governments, and residents more effective. It is difficult for the state to perform its obligations to its residents, if the necessary information for performing these obligations is missing.

NB! Residence data does not provide any rights regarding the use or disposal of property. If the owner grants the right to indicate the address of premises belonging to him/her as the residence, no supplemental rights in regard to these premises develop for the people living in these premises nor do any supplemental obligations develop for the owner from the registration of this fact.

The address data of the residence has legal effect in respect to Riigikogu, European Parliament and local government elections, plebiscites and referendums; for the payment of taxes to the budgets of local governments based on the provisions Tax Act and the performance of public tasks when the performance of these tasks are related to his/her residence.

Population register

The Population Register is the uniform database of the personal data of Estonian citizens and foreigners with Estonian residence permits, which is administered and developed by the Ministry of the Interior.

The data in the Population Register is used for performing the tasks assigned to institutions of the state and the local governments as well as physical and legal persons. Legal and physical persons have access to the data in the Population Register only in case of legitimate interests

The administration and issuance of Population Register data is based on the requirements of the protection of personal data.

What is the Population Register data used for?

Correct data in the Population Register provide the state with information that enables the state to better perform its obligations. Based on the data in the Register, it is possible for the state to more precisely plan the use of monetary resources and manage the development process. It also guarantees the existence of exact information that allows administrative agencies to conduct business with the residents more smoothly.

In cases specified by law, the data in the Population Register has legal effect. As of 1 January 2006, the vital records compiled using the Register's software have legal effect, which means that the information is considered to be correct based exclusively on the data in the Register, and there is no need to prove this information with a paper copy.

The residence data entered in the Population Register has legal effect in three cases:

1. Voter cards are sent to the address in the Population Register.
2. Personal income tax is received by local governments based on residence data.
3. If an address is needed for the performance of functions specified by law, the address data in the Register will be used.

The remaining data is primarily of an informative and statistical nature.

What data is contained in the Population Register?

The Population Register contains the following information on Estonian citizens and foreigners with Estonian residence permits:

- first and family name
- personal ID code
- gender
- residence data
- birth data (date and place of birth)
- citizenship
- existence of foreigners' residence and work permits and term thereof
- death data (date and place of death)

The following data on individuals is also entered in the Population Register:

- marital status
- information on spouse and children
- guardianship information
- information on restrictions of active legal capacity
- statistical or testimony-based data (nationality, native language, education, field of activity)
- data on documents issued to the individual (number, issue time and date of identity card, passport, driver's license, birth certificate, marriage certificate, etc.)

How does personal data arrive in the Population Register?

The data in the Population Register is constantly updated upon the registration of personal events and the documents issued by institutions of the state or local governments. Of the institutions fulfilling public law functions, the main providers of data are the Citizenship and Migration Board; county, city and rural municipality governments as registry authorities; the courts and foreign representations.

The entry of data in the Population Register takes place with the help of special software upon the registration of the event (birth, death, marriage, etc.) or issuance of the document (identity card, passport, residence permit, etc.). For instance, upon the registration of the birth of a child, an entry develops in the Population Register regarding the newborn, where his/her first and family name, gender, personal ID code and residence are indicated.

There is also data that can only be submitted for entry into the Population Register by the individual. The residence data in the Register is entered or amended based on a residence notice submitted by the individual. Upon the birth of a child, the mother's address is automatically registered as the child's residence.

Is the data in the Population Register sufficiently protected? How is security guaranteed?

The use of the Population Register takes place in accordance with the provisions of the Population Register Act and the Personal Data Protection Act.

The protection of the data is checked by the responsible processor (Ministry of the Interior) as well as the Data Protection Inspectorate. Security audits of the processing of personal data are also carried out regularly.

Applications for the use of data in the Population Register are submitted to the Ministry of the Interior. The application includes the purpose, time and manner of using the data. The legal basis for receiving the data is recorded or one's legitimate interest is substantiated. Agreements are concluded with all users for the use of the data. The primary users of the Register of state institutions, but private companies can also use the data in case of legitimate interests.

How can I check my data in the Population Register and correct it, if necessary?

Everyone has the right to become familiar with their data in the Population Register. Parents or guardians have the right to see children's data, and in the case of individuals with restrictions of active legal capacity, their guardian has this right.

Access to the data is enabled by the local government based on an individual's application. In addition, any individual can see his/her own data by accessing the citizen's portal www.eesti.ee on the Internet and identifying him/herself with an ID card or via an Internet bank. Upon finding a mistake in the data, an individual can notify the local government or authorized processor of the Register data via the citizen's portal.

Rights of residence

06/06/2014

A citizen of the European Union, a member state of the European Union Economic Area and Swiss Confederation (hereinafter an EU citizen) has a right to stay in Estonia on the basis of a valid travel document or an identity card for the period of **up to three months without registration of the right of residence.**

A family member of an EU citizen has the right to stay in Estonia for the time period of up to 3 months together with an EU citizen, and the family member must hold a valid travel document and a visa. A family member of an EU citizen is not permitted to be employed or self-employed in Estonia during his or her stay in Estonia.

An EU citizen shall obtain the right of residence upon registration of his/her place of residence located in Estonia in the population register of Estonia. The document certifying the right of residence of an EU citizen is the ID card.

Upon applying for a right of residence, fingerprints shall be captured from a family member of an EU citizen starting from age 6, the fingerprints shall be entered on the residence card of the family member of an EU citizen.

The right of temporary residence of an EU citizen

06/06/2014

An EU citizen obtains the right of temporary residence upon registration of his/her place of residence in the population register of Estonia.

For registration of the place of residence please address the local government authority nearest to your place of residence. More information about the registration of your place of residence can be obtained at the local government authority nearest to your place of residence or [on the home page of the Ministry of Internal Affairs](#).

The right of temporary residence is granted for a period of five years. The right of temporary residence shall be extended automatically for a period of five years, if your registered place of residence is continually in Estonia.

An EU citizen need not apply for a separate work permit for employment in Estonia.

For applying for the document (ID-card) which certifies the right of temporary residence, please address within the period of one month from the registration of your place of residence **in person** a [Service Office of the Citizenship and Migration Bureau](#). An application on behalf of a minor child under age 15 is submitted by his/her [legal representative](#) (e.g. parent).

Documents requested for applying for an ID-card

- application form (complete [on screen](#) or [print out](#) and fill in by hand.) [Instructions](#) for filling the application form;
- an identity document;
- [1 colour photo with measures 40x50 mm](#);

- a document certifying the payment of the state fee;

If you apply on behalf of a minor child under age 15, the following must be added to the above-mentioned documents:

- a child's identity document, if such exists;
- an identity document of the legal representative;
- if the parent's name in the child's birth certificate differs from the name in the parent's identity document, please submit a document certifying the change of the name of the parent (e.g. certificate of marriage), if the name was changed in a foreign country not in Estonia.
- If the application is being submitted by a guardian who has been appointed by the court, or a legal representative of the guardianship authority, then the following must also be added:
 - an identity document of the legal representative;
 - a document certifying the right of representation (except if the data of the document have been entered into the population register of Estonia);
 - an authorization letter (if the application is being submitted by an authorized representative of a guardianship authority).

Issue of the ID-card

The ID-card shall be issued within **30 days** (after acceptance of the application for proceeding) to the applicant in person at the Service Office named on the application form. The ID-card of a minor under 15 years of age shall be issued to his/her legal representative.

An ID-card applied for in **urgent procedure** (the first ID-card cannot be applied for in urgent procedure) shall be issued within **5 working days** (starting from the working day following the date of submission of the application) **solely in Tallinn** Service Offices. The ID-card of a minor under age 15 shall be issued to his/her legal representative.

Upon receipt of the ID-card please present:

- an identity document

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