

Dual nationality means that a person is a citizen of two countries at the same time. *Each country has its own citizenship laws based on its own policy. Persons may have dual nationality by automatic operation of different laws rather than by choice.* For example, a child given birth by a parent (either father or mother), who is Republic of China (Taiwan) citizen, in U.S. may be both a Taiwan and U.S. citizen.

Republic of China citizenship generally follows *jus sanguinis*. The law spells out four criteria, any one of which may be met to qualify for citizenship:

1. A person whose father or mother is, at the time of his (her) birth, a citizen of the Republic of China.
2. A person born after the death of his (her) father or mother who was, at the time of his (her) death, a citizen of the Republic of China.
3. A person born in the territory of the Republic of China and whose parents are both unknown or are stateless.
4. A naturalized person.

In the original version of the law citizenship could only be passed from father to child. However, the law was revised in 2000 to allow citizenship to be passed on from either parents, taking effect on those born after February 9, 1980 (those under age 20 at the time of the promulgation).