

GERMAN CITIZENSHIP SERVICE PLANS

Descent · Declaration · Reinstatement · Restitution

Flat fees. A path determined before any filing. German-qualified counsel prepares and files the German-law portion.

Start here - Pathway memo \$299 Credited in full if you engage within 14 days.

Forty-five minutes plus a one-page file-or-don't-file memo: which section of the Nationality Act (or Article 116) actually fits, what documents the chain needs, and whether the file is Standard, Family, or Complex.

Three plans

Standard File	MOST CHOSEN Family File	Complex / Restitution
\$5,000 one applicant 60% on engagement 40% when the BVA or mission packet is ready to submit	\$5,000 + \$1,000 first adult · each additional household member 60% on engagement 40% when the first packet is ready to submit	\$8,500 one applicant · additional members +\$1,500 50% on engagement 30% when the evidence chart is locked 20% when the packet is ready to submit
Best for One adult. The route is clear after the memo: citizenship by descent, a §5 StAG declaration, or reinstatement of a former German whose facts are straightforward. Includes - Written route confirmation (which section we will file under) - Personalized document checklist for that route, in German and English - Family-tree / chain chart for the filing - Assembly of the U.S. and already-available German civil-status documents - Coordination of certified copies and apostilles you obtain - Legal drafting and filing by German-qualified counsel with the BVA or the competent mission - Vollmacht and application forms - Status updates at defined milestones - not on demand every week of a multi-year BVA queue - Passport-application guidance after a positive decision Not included Archive research, contested or broken chains, Art. 116 / §15 restitution, extra applicants, sworn translations, German government fees.	Best for A household filing on the same ancestor chain. BVA treats each person as their own applicant. We reuse the shared annex so you do not pay a full Standard fee four times. Everything in Standard for the first adult, plus - A separate application packet for each additional spouse or child in the household - Shared ancestor annex built once and attached to every file - Aligned checklists so siblings are not collecting different versions of the same birth record - One family status report at each milestone - Passport guidance for each approved applicant Who counts as "additional" Spouse and children under 18 in the same household, filing the same route on the same chain. Adult siblings outside the household are separate Standard files, with a \$500 courtesy if they engage within 90 days of the first file.	Best for Art. 116(2) restoration, §15 StAG restitution, a broken or undocumented chain, missing German civil-status records, or a reinstatement that is discretionary and fact-heavy. Everything in Standard, plus - Evidence theory memo before documents are ordered - Coordination of targeted archive requests (Standesamt, Landesarchiv, Arolsen or equivalent) - archive fees are extra - Reconstruction of the nationality chain where records are incomplete - Longer German-law brief to the BVA - One written response to an ordinary BVA inquiry or Nachforderung Work past the written fence converts to hourly at \$375 after written notice, or to a German-counsel supplemental fixed fee quoted before that work starts.

Which pathway this firm files

The plan is the service level & the pathway is the legal theory. We choose the pathway together in the \$299 consult & memo. We typically do not let a client self-select “descent” when the facts are restitution, or the other way around.

Route	Typical facts	Usual plan
Descent / Feststellung	Unbroken chain from a German ancestor. Civil-status records exist or can be ordered.	Standard or Family
§5 StAG declaration	Historical gender or legitimacy discrimination. Declaration window runs through 19 August 2031.	Standard or Family
Reinstatement (§13 and related)	Former German who lost citizenship, often by becoming a U.S. citizen under the old rules. Discretionary.	Standard if the facts are clean; Complex if they are not
Art. 116(2) / §15 restitution	Deprivation or persecution-related loss, including descendants. Archive work is common.	Complex

What you receive: the citizenship packet

BVA and the missions have a very specific process & format they require. Standard assembles a clear chain. Family clones the shared annex. Complex rebuilds the chain when the records are incomplete.

#	Tab	What it is
1	Pathway memo	The section we are filing under, and why we are not filing a different one.
2	Applicant identity	Passports, civil-status records, name-change documents.
3	Ancestor civil status	Birth, marriage, death certificate, German and foreign, in the order the BVA reads them.
4	Proof of the ancestor’s German nationality	Passports, Kennkarte, registration, military, or other accepted proof.
5	Loss, discrimination, or persecution exhibit	Only where the route needs it (declaration, reinstatement, restitution).
6	Translations and legalizations index	What was translated, by whom, and which apostille sits on which original.
7	Vollmacht	Power of attorney to German-qualified counsel, in the form the authority accepts.
8	Application forms	BVA or mission forms completed to match the chain chart and the brief.
9	German-law cover letter	Drafted and signed by German-qualified counsel.
10	Filing log	Submission proof, BVA file number when issued, inbound correspondence.
11	After-decision set	What to do with a Staatsangehörigkeitsausweis or naturalization certificate, and how a passport application runs.

Add-on menu

Priced separately. German government fees are extra.

Add-on	Fee	Note
Each additional household member (Standard route)	\$1,000	Gold pricing; same chain
Each additional household member (Complex route)	\$1,500	Platinum pricing
Adult sibling on the same chain, separate household	\$4,500 if within 90 days	Own file; shared annex
Sworn / certified translations	\$65 per page or pass through & \$150 coordination	Not absorbed into the flat fee
Apostilles, certified copies, FBI report where required	Pass-through	Client pays the issuer
Targeted archive request beyond one Standard Standesamt order	\$450 each + archive fees	Included in a limited form on Platinum
Arolsen / persecution-file research package	\$2,500–\$4,000	Quoted after the pathway memo

Add-on	Fee	Note
Extra BVA inquiry or Nachforderung beyond the plan cap	\$950	Ordinary scope
Name change / late registration / separate Standesamt proceeding	Quoted	Not a citizenship filing

Government and third-party costs you should budget separately

BVA or mission fees where charged (many restitution and \$5 filings are fee-exempt; Feststellung is typically a small per-person fee billed with the decision), sworn translations, apostilles, civil-status copies, archive fees, FBI or police certificates where a route requires them, and German passport fees after a positive decision. Amounts change.

How the work is staffed

The firm is your contract party and your point of contact in a U.S. or German time zone. German-law analysis, drafting, and filing are done by German-qualified counsel. U.S. counsel does not practice German law. Day-to-day document collection and status sit with the firm's German-side team so a multi-year BVA queue gets monitored locally.

Scope fences that keep the flat fee flat

- The pathway in the memo is the pathway we file. A midstream change of theory is a change order.
- We do not guarantee that the BVA or a mission will confirm or grant citizenship. Processing often takes one or even three years. That wait is not a defect in the file.
- Client delay of more than 45 days on a document request pauses the clock and can reset the next installment date.
- Missing, contradictory, or newly discovered facts (a naturalization nobody mentioned, a different biological parent, an earlier name) can move a Standard file to Complex.
- §5 declarations are subject to the statutory window (currently through 19 August 2031). We will not treat a late file as a Standard matter.
- Archive silence is not a denial and is not a refund event. Platinum includes coordination of requests, not a promised record.
- Approval of one family member does not automatically approve the others. Each applicant stands on his or her own packet.
- Work beyond the Platinum fence is quoted before it starts.

How an engagement starts

1. Book the \$299 route memo. If you engage within 14 days, that fee is credited against the plan.
2. You receive a plan recommendation (Standard, Family, or Complex) and a scoped engagement letter.
3. First installment is due on signing. Work starts when funds clear.
4. The checklist goes out within ten business days of engagement.
5. Remaining installments are invoiced when the packet is ready to submit.

Important

Translations, apostilles, archive fees, government fees, and passport fees are not included unless the engagement agreement says so. Results vary. Past client outcomes are not a guarantee. Use of this sheet does not create an attorney-client relationship. U.S. counsel is Alexander Thornton, Attorney at Law, licensed in Florida and the District of Columbia. German-law advice and German filings are given only by German-qualified counsel (of counsel).

Request a pathway memo · info@germanamericanlegal.com · USA +1 954-951-1003 · Germany +49 151-57393310