

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



THE IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORT

(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

No. of 2026

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AN ACT to amend the Immigration and Passport Act 2014 and for other connected purposes.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda as follows —

1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

2. Interpretation

In this Act,

“principal Act” means the Immigration and Passport Act, 2014.

3. Amendment of section 24A – Grant of Amnesty

Section 24A of the principal Act is repealed and replaced as follows –

“24A. Grant of Amnesty

(1) A person who, having lawfully entered Antigua and Barbuda but –

- (a) who, for a period of four (4) years or more, has been residing in Antigua and Barbuda as an illegal immigrant; or
- (b) who would ordinarily qualify for citizenship except for a lapse of six (6) months or more in his or her period of legal residency;

may apply to the Minister in the form set out in Schedule 8 for a grant of amnesty.

(2) The application shall –

- (a) be submitted at the Immigration Department during the amnesty period being April 1st, 2026 to June 30th, 2026; and
- (b) be accompanied by –
 - (i) a police record from every territory in which the applicant resided for the

last four (4) years;

(ii) a processing fee of \$500.00; and

(iii) a change of status endorsement fee of \$150.00.

(3) The Minister, after consultation with the Chief Immigration Officer, may grant the application for amnesty.

(4) A person whose application for amnesty has been approved shall, within fourteen (14) days of such approval, attend the Immigration Department to have his status in Antigua and Barbuda regularised and to apply for an extension of time.

(5) For the purpose of this section –

(a) “amnesty” is an act of pardon done under the authority of the Government that gives an illegal immigrant, during the amnesty period, an opportunity to become a legal immigrant lawfully residing in Antigua and Barbuda.

(b) “regularise” is the process whereby any period during which a person resided illegally in Antigua and Barbuda prior to the grant of amnesty is disregarded such that the person is no longer liable to suffer any consequence under the Act for the period that he was illegally residing in Antigua and Barbuda.”

4. Insertion of section 24B

The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 24A the following new section –

“24B. Ineligibility

(1) A person shall not be eligible for amnesty if that person –

(a) poses a threat to national security or public safety;

(b) has provided false or misleading information in the application; or

(c) is the subject of an active deportation order or international arrest warrant.

(2) A person who has applied for amnesty on three previous occasions shall not qualify for amnesty under section 24A.”

5. Insertion of Schedule 8

The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after Schedule 7 a new schedule as follows –

SCHEDULE 8

[App No.]

**Antigua and Barbuda Department of Immigration
AMNESTY APPLICATION FORM**

Amnesty Conditions:

- 1) Applications for Amnesty must be completed and filed by 1st April 2026.
- 2) Amnesty payments are non-refundable and not subject to petition rights.
- 3) An Amnesty application filing that contains willfully false or fraudulent information is void.
- 4) An Amnesty application filing does not result in immunity from criminal charges.
- 5) The Amnesty Application Form should not be photocopied.

A. IDENTIFICATION/CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Surname: _____
2. Given Name(s): _____
3. Address in Antigua & Barbuda: _____
4. Contact Number(s): _____
5. Nationality: _____

B. MARITAL INFORMATION

Married Not Married

If married, kindly complete 6-9.

6. Name of Spouse: _____
7. Nationality of Spouse: _____ 8. Contact Number: _____
9. Employed: Yes No

C. FAMILY INFORMATION

List the names of family members residing at your address in Antigua and Barbuda.

Name	Relation	Date of Birth

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D. PASSPORT INFORMATION

10. Passport Holder: Yes No 11. Passport#: _____
12. Date of Issue: _____ 13. Country of Issue: _____
14. Are you a citizen of any other country? Yes No
15. Have you been issued with a passport from any other country?
 Yes No

If **YES**, provide the following information -

Passport # _____ Date of Issue _____

Country of Issue: _____

E. STATUS

16. Date of Arrival: _____
17. Last date of extension application: _____
18. Reason for not extending stay: _____

F. EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

19. Employed: Yes No
20. Name and Address of employer: _____
21. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence in Antigua and Barbuda or any other country?
 Yes No

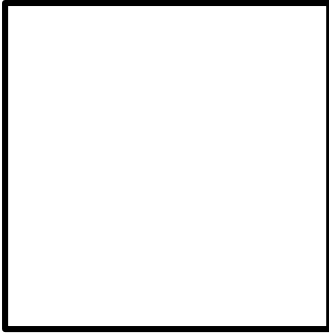
If **YES**, what is the offence(s): _____ Year of Conviction _____

Date

Applicant

Date

Witness



Please affix a passport size photograph in the square.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

1. Date: _____

2. Name of Applicant: _____

3. Applicant's Address: _____

4. Verification and Recommendation by Immigration

5. Recommending Officer: _____

6. Authorized by: _____

7. Approved by: _____

Minister Comments:

Signature of Minister

Date

6. Commencement

This amendment shall be deemed to have come into operation on the 1st day of April 2026.

Passed the House of Representatives on
the day of 2026.

Passed the Senate on the day of
2026.

Speaker.

Vice President.

Clerk to the House of Representatives.

Clerk to the Senate.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Immigration and Passport Act, 2014 to provide for the granting of amnesty to persons who are currently illegally residing in Antigua and Barbuda and who may wish to have their immigration status regularized.

This Bill contains six (6) clauses as follows –

Clause 1 and 2 – Short title and Interpretation respectively.**Clause 3 – Amendment of section 24A – Grant of Amnesty.**

This clause outlines the procedure for making an application for amnesty. The application must be made between the 1st day of April 2026 and the 30th day of June 2026. The application must also be accompanied by a police record from every territory in which the applicant has resided for the last four (4) years, a processing fee of \$500.00 and a change of status endorsement fee of \$150.00 which are payable on submission of the application.

If the application is approved, the applicant is required to visit the Immigration Department within fourteen (14) days of the approval to have his or her status regularized by making an application for an extension of time to lawfully remain in Antigua and Barbuda.

Clause 4 – Insertion of section 24B – Ineligibility.

This clause outlines the categories of persons who are ineligible for a grant of amnesty.

Clause 5 – Insertion of Schedule 8.

This clause contains the Amnesty Application Form which is to be completed by applicants and submitted by the 1st day of April 2026.

Clause 6 – Commencement.

This Bill shall be deemed to have come into operation on the 1st day of April 2026 which is the day on which the amnesty period begins.

Hon. Sir Steadroy C.O. Benjamin KGCN
Attorney General and
Minister responsible for Immigration