

Registration under the *Indian Act* and applying for a status card

What's the difference?

Registration



What is it?

Your legal status as a person registered under the *Indian Act*.



How long does it take?

From 6 months to 2 years depending on the complexity of your file and the genealogical research needed.



How do you register?

You can apply by mail or in person at any Indigenous Services Canada or Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs office or at your First Nation office.



Does it need to be renewed?

No. Registration doesn't expire.



What are the benefits?

If you become registered, you may be entitled to a range of programs and services.



Is there a fee?

There's no fee to apply for registration.

Status card



What is it?

A federal identity document that confirms you are registered under the *Indian Act*. There are 2 versions: the Secure Certificate of Indian Status, or secure status card, and the Certificate of Indian Status, or status card.



How long does it take?

If you become registered or if you're already registered, it takes us from 8 to 12 weeks to issue a secure status card.



How do you apply?

You can apply by mail or in person at any Indigenous Services Canada or Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs office for a secure status card. Some First Nations issue status cards. Contact your First Nation to apply for one.



Does it need to be renewed?

Yes. A secure status card needs to be renewed every 10 years for adults and dependent adults and every 5 years for children. A status card needs to be renewed every 5 years for adults and dependent adults and every 3 years for children.



What are the benefits?

Both cards can be used to access programs and services and are acceptable forms of government-issued photo ID.



Is there a fee?

The Government of Canada does not charge a fee to apply for a secure status card.

Find out more: canada.ca/indian-status

