

LESSON 4: IDENTITY & CITIZENSHIP

Law & Citizenship Course • *Ghid practic de educație juridică - „Elevul și legea”* • Judecător Cristi Danileț



BELONGING UNDER THE LAW



Identity shows who you are; citizenship links you to a state. Birth records and ID documents prove your identity.

LESSON CONTENTS

PART 1

IDENTITY IN LAW

Birth registration, civil-status records, names, and ID documents; how the law proves who you are

PART 2

CITIZENSHIP: WHO HAS IT & HOW

Ways to acquire citizenship (by parents, by birth in limited cases, by naturalization), dual citizenship and statelessness basics

PART 3

RIGHTS & DUTIES OF CITIZENS

What citizenship adds to universal rights (vote, be elected, petition) and the duties that come with belonging

PART 4

TAKING PART IN PUBLIC LIFE

Voting, petitions, local councils, public consultations, volunteering — how your voice counts legally

PART 5

REVIEW & PRACTICE

Quiz, key concepts, and reflection tasks — review what you've learned and apply it.

LAW & CITIZENSHIP COURSE

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN IN THIS CHAPTER

In this chapter, you'll see how the law defines **identity** and **belonging**. We start with civil-status records — **birth registration**, **name**, and the **Personal Numeric Code (CNP)** — and how they prove who you are. You'll learn what **ID documents** (identity card, passport) are for and when you must show them. Then we explain **citizenship**: how it's gained (by parents, in limited birth cases, by naturalization), basics of **dual citizenship**, and how it differs from **residence**. We compare rights tied to citizenship (to **vote**, be elected, hold certain public roles) with **universal rights**. We also look at minorities, bans on **discrimination**, and people crossing borders — **refugees**, **asylum**, and **statelessness**. By the end, you'll be able to name the main identity records, explain how citizenship is acquired, and tell apart **citizen-only rights** from **universal rights**.

HOW THE LAW RECOGNIZES WHO YOU ARE

IDENTITY IN LAW

WHY OFFICIAL RECORDS PROTECT WHO YOU ARE

Your identity is **recognized and protected** by law from birth. The **birth certificate** proves your existence, your name, and family ties. Later, you receive a **Personal Numeric Code (CNP)** — unique for every person. These **official records** ensure your rights and **prevent fraud**. As you grow, **ID documents** such as the **identity card** and **passport** confirm your identity in daily life. Losing or misusing them can have **legal consequences**, so protecting your identity is also your responsibility.



Warm-Up Activity



Write down three situations where you need to show your ID or give your personal details. Why do you think the law requires proof of identity in those moments? Share your answer with a classmate.

Identity proves both who you are and your link to the state.

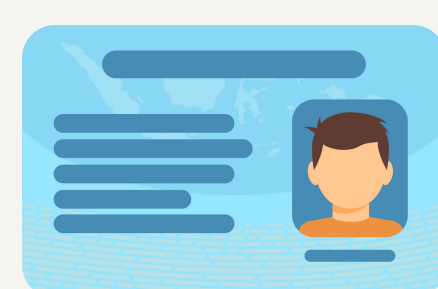
WHO HAS CITIZENSHIP?

Citizenship is your legal bond with a state. Most people get it **by parents** (at least one Romanian parent), while a few obtain it **by birth in Romania** in special cases (foundlings or children of **stateless/unknown** parents). Others can gain it by **naturalization** after lawful residence, clean conduct, and knowledge of the Romanian language and Constitution. **Dual citizenship** is allowed; inside Romania you have the same rights and duties as any citizen. **Residence permits** or **refugee/asylum status** let people stay, but do not confer citizenship.



By Parents (*jus sanguinis*)

A child is Romanian if at least one parent is Romanian, no matter the place of birth.



By Birth in Romania

Foundlings or children of stateless/unknown parents born here become Romanian.



Refugees, Asylum & Residence

These give protection to stay, not citizenship. They can be a step toward naturalization later.



Dual Citizenship

Romania permits it. In Romania, the person is treated as a Romanian citizen with full rights and duties.



Naturalization

After legal residence, good conduct, means of living, and knowing Romanian & the Constitution; decided by the National Citizenship Authority.



Loss or Renunciation

Renunciation is possible if another citizenship is held. Born Romanians can't be stripped of citizenship; withdrawal can apply only to some naturalized cases.

Imagine and Reflect

Imagine three teens: one born abroad to a Romanian parent; one found in Romania with unknown parents; one who lived here 10+ years with a residence permit. Which path to citizenship fits each? Write 2–3 sentences.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN DO & MUST DO

Civic



Civic Rights

- **Vote & be elected** — Citizens shape government by voting and can run for public office.
- **Petition & express opinions** — You may address authorities or protest peacefully to defend your rights.

Welfare



Social Rights

- **Education & healthcare** — The state must guarantee free education and basic healthcare for all citizens.
- **Social protection** — Support for vulnerable people, families, and those in need.

Economy



Economic Rights

- **Work & fair pay** — Every citizen can choose a profession and has the right to decent working conditions.
- **Property & enterprise** — Citizens may own property or start a business under the law.

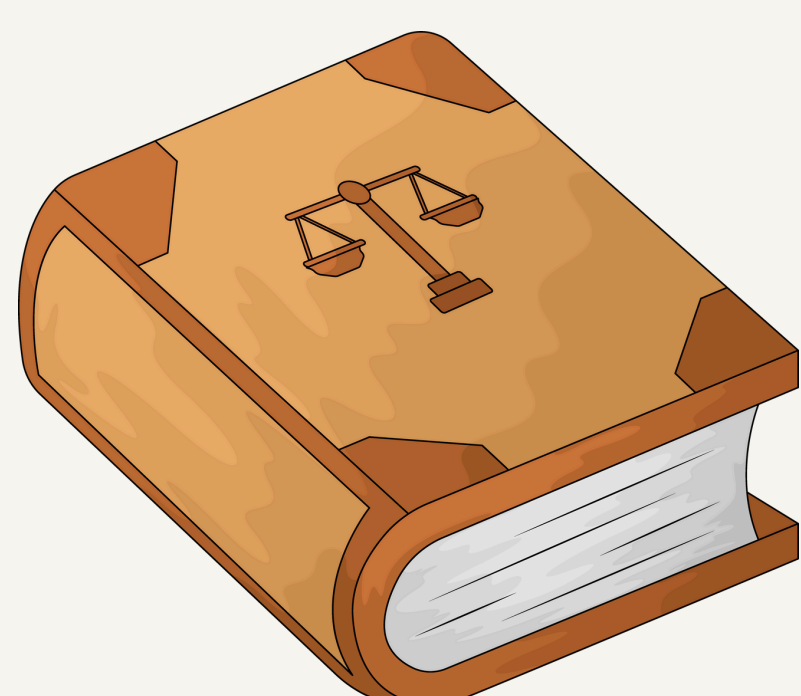
Duties



Civic Duties

- **Respect the law** — All are equal before it.
- **Protect others & the environment** — Actions must not harm people, nature, or public goods.
- **Defend the country** — Loyalty to Romania and the Constitution is a civic duty.
- **Pay taxes** — Contributions fund public services and protect common welfare.

Key terms

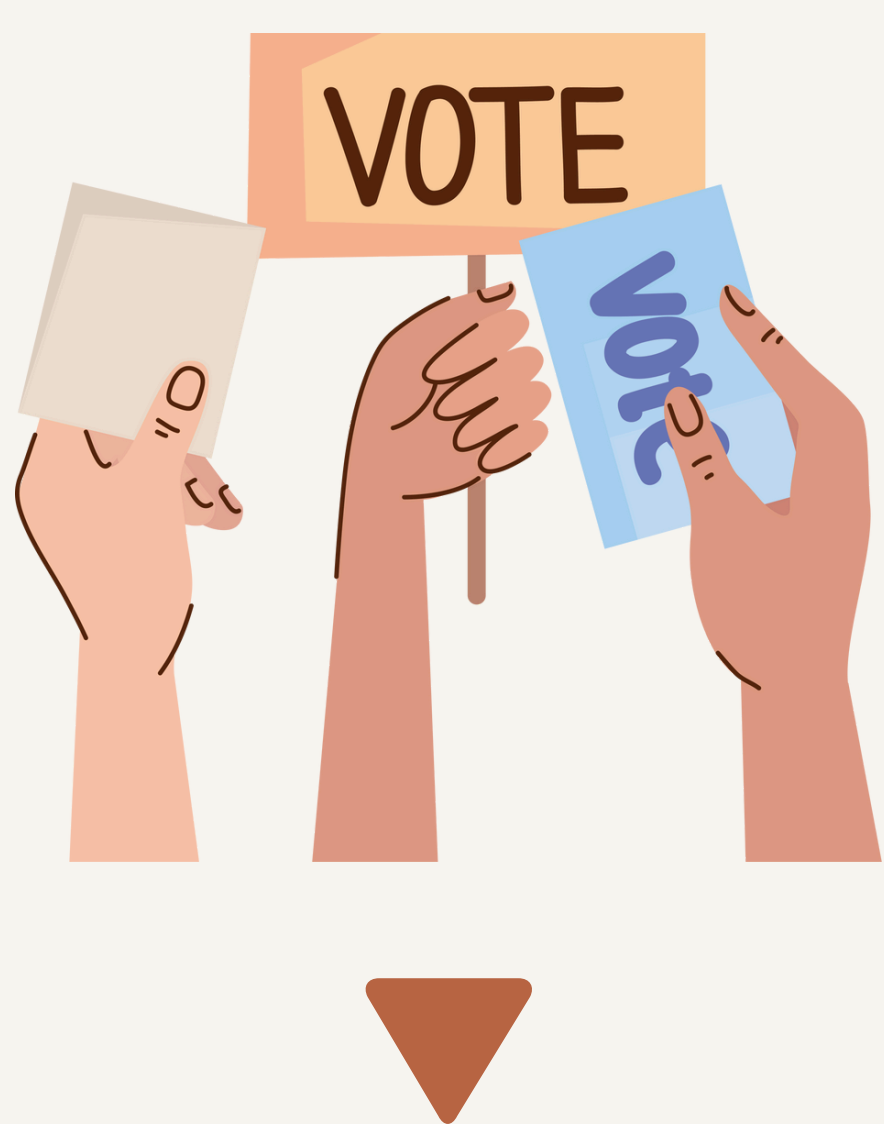


Mini-Glossary

- **Citizen** = a person legally belonging to a state, with rights and duties.
- **Equality before the law** = everyone is treated the same.
- **Civic participation** = taking part in community or public life.

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IN PUBLIC LIFE

A democratic society works only when its citizens take part in it. The **law protects your right to participate**, but it also expects responsibility and respect for others. Taking part means using your **voice, vote**, and **actions** to influence how your community is run. Whether you **vote, sign a petition, join a consultation**, or **volunteer**, every small action strengthens trust between people and the state.



VOTING

Through elections, citizens choose leaders at local, national, and European levels. Voting is both a right and a duty — it ensures that power reflects the people's will.



PETITIONS & CONSULTATIONS

Citizens can propose changes, express concerns, or ask public authorities to act. Petitions and consultations make sure authorities listen before deciding.



LOCAL PARTICIPATION

In your town or school, you can take part in youth councils, local debates, or civic projects. These help solve community problems and teach cooperation and accountability.



VOLUNTEERING

Helping others — through NGOs, campaigns, or community service — builds empathy and responsibility. Every act of participation shows that citizenship is active, not passive.

FROM VOICE TO IMPACT

Get Informed & Ready

Check your ID and polling place. You have a right to information—ask for public documents before decisions.



Stay informed

Raise an Issue

Use petitions or formal complaints to report local problems. Authorities must answer within legal deadlines.



Speak up

Have Your Say

In consultations, send written feedback, speak at meetings, or join debates on budgets and rules.



Join the debate

Choose Leaders

Through elections, citizens pick representatives locally, nationally, and for the EU. You can also volunteer as an observer to keep the process fair.



Vote & observe

Hold Them Accountable

After elections, attend council meetings, read reports and ask questions using access-to-information rules. Illegal or unfair acts can be challenged in court.



Monitor & question

So what for me?

Your voice matters only if you use it. Staying informed, voting, and giving feedback keep democracy alive.

A responsible citizen doesn't stop after elections; they watch, question, and participate so that decisions reflect real needs.

Try it: Pick one everyday rule (e.g., traffic lights). Who is protected? What happens if ignored?

QUIZ — Lesson 4

Check what you've learned about how citizenship, rights and participation work. Read each question carefully and choose the correct answer.



- 1** What connects citizens to the state?
 - a) An ID card
 - b) Citizenship
 - c) The Constitution
- 2** Who can be a Romanian citizen by birth?
 - a) Only those born in Romania
 - b) Anyone with at least one Romanian parent
 - c) Only those with both Romanian parents
- 3** Which document confirms your personal identity?
 - a) Residence permit
 - b) Personal Numeric Code (CNP)
 - c) School certificate
- 4** Why is dual citizenship allowed?
 - a) It helps citizens keep ties with other countries
 - b) It replaces Romanian citizenship entirely
 - c) It applies only to refugees
- 5** What does the Constitution define?
 - a) How rights are protected and power is divided
 - b) Only national symbols
 - c) The duties of the government
- 6** Which of these is a civic right?
 - a) Free education
 - b) To vote and be elected
 - c) To pay taxes
- 7** Which of these actions shows active citizenship?
 - a) Ignoring local elections
 - b) Complaining only on social media
 - c) Signing a petition or joining a consultation
- 8** What happens when a law is published in the Official Gazette?
 - a) It becomes binding for everyone
 - b) Only Parliament must follow it
 - c) Citizens can choose to obey it
- 9** How can citizens hold leaders accountable after elections?
 - a) By refusing to vote again
 - b) By attending public meetings and asking questions
 - c) By relying only on media reports
- 10** What does “Rule of Law” mean?
 - a) Laws apply equally to everyone, including those in power
 - b) Judges decide who follows which law
 - c) Citizens can ignore unfair rules

QUIZ — Lesson 4

ANSWER KEY



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KEY CONCEPTS FROM LESSON 4



IDENTITY

Who you are — proven by official records such as your birth certificate, ID, and Personal Numeric Code (CNP).



CITIZENSHIP

A legal bond between a person and a state. It gives rights, duties and belonging to a national community.



ACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP

Gained by parents, birth in certain cases, or naturalization after lawful residence, good conduct and knowledge of language.



DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Some states allow people to hold more than one citizenship. Rights apply within each country according to its laws.



RESIDENCE, ASYLUM & REFUGEE STATUS

These let a person stay lawfully and receive protection, but they do not confer citizenship.



RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

Civic, social, and economic rights — e.g., to vote and be elected, to education and healthcare, to work and own property — aimed at freedom and equality.



DUTIES OF CITIZENS

Obey the law, respect others and the environment, contribute through taxes, and take part in civic life.



ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Taking part in public life: voting, petitions, public consultations, community projects, and volunteering to improve the common good.



CONSTITUTION

A state's highest law. It organizes institutions, sets fundamental rights and duties and often defines national symbols.