What are the requirements to become a prosecutor in Norway? Is there any special requirement for a person originally come from Iran? Is a security clearance a must-have?

I'll look up the rules in Norwegian law (straffeprosessloven, påtaleinstruksen, politiloven, sikkerhetsloven) for you.

Used 14 tools, loaded tools

Now reading the security clearance provisions and the police personnel rule.

Used 15 tools

Short answer

- **Core requirements:** A Norwegian law degree (juridisk embetseksamen or master i rettsvitenskap), a full police certificate, and good character (plettfri vandel). For the higher state prosecutor posts you must also be a Norwegian citizen and speak Norwegian.
- **Iranian background:** No Norwegian law singles out Iran or people born there. Discrimination based on national origin is prohibited. Your background matters in three practical ways:
  - **Citizenship:** Norwegian citizenship is required for the embetsmann posts.
  - **Education:** An Iranian law degree does not match the statutory wording.
  - **Security clearance:** If a post needs clearance, ties to another state, including citizenship and family there, are explicitly part of the assessment.
- **Security clearance:** It is not a general legal requirement for every prosecutor. It is required only if the specific post gives access to information graded KONFIDENSIELT or higher. Many prosecution and police posts do involve such information, so it often becomes a condition of the job. Check each job advertisement.

Legal basis

Who counts as a prosecutor. Straffeprosessloven § 55 a lists the prosecution officials (påtalemyndighetens tjenestemenn). They include police lawyers (politiadvokater, politifullmektiger) "for så vidt de har juridisk embetseksamen eller mastergrad i rettsvitenskap". They also include public prosecutors (statsadvokater) and the Director of Public Prosecutions (riksadvokaten).

Degree requirement. § 56 and § 57 repeat the same degree requirement for the riksadvokat level and for statsadvokater.

Police certificate. § 55 a third paragraph says that anyone hired in the prosecution service must submit an "uttømmende og utvidet politiattest". This applies even to staff without prosecuting authority.

Police employees. For posts within the police, which is where most police lawyers work, politiloven § 18 adds two rules:

- The person must have "plettfri vandel og være skikket for tjeneste i politiet".
- Employees with alminnelig politimyndighet must be Norwegian citizens.

Citizenship and language for embetsmenn. Statsadvokater and the riksadvokat are embetsmenn (§§ 56–57). Grunnloven § 114 says only Norwegian citizens "som taler landets språk" can be appointed to such offices.

Foreign law degrees. The Norwegian equivalent of the degree is what the statute names. Advokatforskriften § 61 lets the Supervisory Council for Legal Practice (Advokattilsynet) approve use of the title "jurist" on the basis of foreign education. This happens only "i særlige tilfeller", requires sufficient knowledge of Norwegian law, and may require an aptitude test. That provision concerns the title. It does not say the approval satisfies straffeprosessloven § 55 a.

Non-discrimination. Likestillings- og diskrimineringsloven § 6 bans discrimination based on ethnicity, which "blant annet" includes national origin. Being originally from Iran cannot in itself be a reason to reject you.

Security clearance (sikkerhetsklarering):

- **When it is needed.** Sikkerhetsloven § 8-1 says clearance is required for those who are to access information "gradert KONFIDENSIELT eller høyere". It is tied to the post, not to the profession.
- **The test.** Under § 8-4, clearance is granted unless there is "rimelig grunn til å tvile" about suitability. The listed factors include:
  - risk that you or your family could be pressured, letter (c);
  - "tilknytning til andre stater", letter (n);
  - inability to carry out a satisfactory background check, letter (m).
- **Family members.** Information about close family counts only if it is security-relevant. Lawful political engagement must not count against you.
- **Foreign citizens.** For anyone holding a foreign citizenship, § 8-7 requires a specific overall assessment. It weighs the home country's security significance, your ties to it, and your ties to Norway. This would apply to a dual Norwegian-Iranian citizen as well.
- **Country assessments.** The National Security Authority (NSM) prepares assessments of other states, and these must be weighed in the decision (klareringsforskriften § 18).
- **Alternatives to a refusal.** Clearance can be given on conditions, such as being limited to one specific post (§ 8-6). If the level requested cannot be granted, a lower level must be considered (klareringsforskriften § 21).
- **Appeals.** A clearance decision can be appealed within **three weeks** of receiving it (§ 8-17).

Case law

I found no Supreme Court decision on the clearance rules in §§ 8-4 or 8-7. Most clearance disputes are decided administratively, and Lovkart covers only the Supreme Court.

Changes you should know about

- **New clearance authority from 1 January 2027.** A central clearance directorate (det sentrale klareringsdirektoratet) will handle clearance for civilian sectors (FOR-2026-10-16-2069). This changes who decides, not the criteria.
- **Adopted, in-force date not yet set.** A new duty applies to anyone being authorised: they must tell the person responsible for authorisation about circumstances that may affect their security suitability (LOV-2026-04-10-12).

What depends on your facts

- **Citizenship:**
  - Iranian citizenship only: you cannot be appointed statsadvokat, and police posts with politimyndighet are closed.
  - Norwegian citizenship: those barriers fall away. If you also keep Iranian citizenship, § 8-7 still applies in any clearance case.
  - I have not checked Iranian rules on giving up citizenship.
- **Degree:** A Norwegian master i rettsvitenskap satisfies the requirement. An Iranian law degree would most likely need to be supplemented with Norwegian legal education.
- **The post:** An ordinary police lawyer position may or may not involve graded information. Units such as PST, Kripos or organised-crime units almost certainly do.
- **Family and travel ties to Iran:** These are assessed individually and do not automatically lead to refusal.

Uncertainties and what I could not check

- I could not confirm from these sources whether police lawyers hold "alminnelig politimyndighet", which would trigger the citizenship rule in politiloven § 18. Under politiloven § 20, the Ministry decides this, and those decisions are not in Lovkart.
- I could not confirm how employers treat foreign law degrees that have been approved.
- No pending legislation found in Lovkart changes the core requirements in straffeprosessloven §§ 55 a–57 (snapshot 24 October 2026).

Sources

- Straffeprosessloven § 55 a, § 56, § 57: who is a prosecutor, degree requirement, police certificate
- Grunnloven § 114: citizenship and language for embetsmenn
- Politiloven § 18, § 20: character, citizenship, police authority
- Advokatforskriften § 61: foreign legal education
- Likestillings- og diskrimineringsloven § 6: ban on discrimination based on national origin
- Sikkerhetsloven § 8-1, § 8-4, § 8-6, § 8-7, § 8-17: when clearance is needed, the assessment, foreign citizens, appeals
- Klareringsforskriften § 18, § 21: country assessments, lower level and conditions
- FOR-2026-10-16-2069, LOV-2026-04-10-12: upcoming changes

I'm not a lawyer, and this is information from the sources above, not legal advice. For a concrete application or a clearance refusal, a lawyer can review it (Advokatenhjelperdeg). If you believe you were treated differently because of your origin, the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud (LDO) can give guidance.

16 hours ago

Ask Claude your own question