

## Instructions

### WHAT IS THIS FORM?

This form, the N-600, is an application for certificate of citizenship.

To request INS forms, call our toll-free forms line at **1-800-870-3676**. You may also get INS forms and information about the immigration laws and regulations by calling **1-800-375-5283** or from the INS internet website at <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>.

### WHO SHOULD USE THIS FORM?

Every person who claims citizenship either by having been born outside the United States of United States citizen parent(s) or by action of law while residing in the United States as a child who has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence with a United States citizen parent.

As of February 27, 2001, children become United States citizens automatically by action of law only if:

- The child is regularly residing in the United States.
- The child has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence.
- The child has not yet reached his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the time of fulfilling all of the requirements for citizenship.
- If a biological child, the child is legitimate or was legitimated, while in the legal custody of the legitimating parent(s), prior to reaching his or her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday **or**
- If an adopted child, the child has been finally adopted **and** immigrated based on an approved I-600 or the child fulfilled the 2-years legal custody, 2-years joint residence requirements.

The following individuals may use this form:

- Any person claiming U.S. citizenship through the naturalization of an alien parent(s) at any time.
- A U.S. citizen parent seeking citizenship on behalf of a minor adopted or biological child under section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (providing for automatic citizenship for biological and adopted children who meet certain conditions while under the age of 18 years).

- Any person claiming U.S. citizenship through a U.S. citizen father, mother, or both parents.
- Any person claiming U.S. citizenship through a marriage to a U.S. citizen prior to September 22, 1922.

### WHO SHOULD NOT USE THIS FORM?

- Persons who do not have a claim to citizenship either at the time of birth or by action of law.
- Stepchildren and children who are not legitimate or who were not legitimated prior to their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, except for children who were born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or children who became citizens on or before February 26, 2001 through the naturalization of the child's mother.
- United States citizen parents of children who regularly reside outside the United States. They should use the Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate under Section 322.

### WHEN CAN THIS FORM BE FILED?

Any person who was born a United States citizen outside the United States or who fulfilled the requirements for becoming a United States citizen prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday can file this form at any time during his or her lifetime.

### WHO CAN FILE THIS FORM?

The Form N-600 may be filed by any individual claiming to have acquired or derived U.S. citizenship through a U.S. citizen.

In the case of minor adopted or biological children (under 18 years) qualifying for citizenship under section 320 of the INA, the application must be filed by the U.S. citizen parent or legal guardian with legal and physical custody of the child.

In the case of an applicant with a disability, an immediate relative or legal guardian may file the application.

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## WHAT DOES IT COST TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP AND HOW SHOULD THE FEE BE PAID?

Except for U.S. citizen parents requesting a certificate of citizenship for an adopted child, all applicants must pay the fee for this Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship - **\$195.00**.

For U.S. citizen parents filing on behalf of an adopted minor child under section 320 of the INA (checking **Part 2, Box "C" on the Form**), the fee for the Form N-600 is **\$155.00**.

The fee must be paid at the time of filing the application. The fee is not refundable, even if the application is subsequently withdrawn.

Use the following guidelines when you prepare your check or money order:

- The check or money order must be drawn on a bank or other financial institution located in the United States and must be payable in U.S. currency. **DO NOT MAIL CASH.**
- Make the check or money order payable to **Immigration and Naturalization Service**, unless:
  - you live in Guam and are filing your application there, make it payable to **Treasurer, Guam**; or
  - you live in the U.S. Virgin Islands and are filing your application there, make it payable to **Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands**.

DO NOT USE THE INITIALS "INS" ON YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

## WHERE DO I SEND THE APPLICATION?

The completed Form N-600 and accompanying documentation must be filed with the appropriate Service office in the United States with jurisdiction over your place of residence. Form N-600 may be filed at any Service office or suboffice in the United States or its outlying possessions (including San Juan, Puerto Rico; the U.S. Virgin Islands; and Guam). The address of each Service office can be found at: <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/fieldoffices/alphaa.htm>.

## WHAT DOCUMENTS OR EVIDENCE MUST I SEND WITH THE APPLICATION?

Applicants do not need to submit documents that were submitted in connection with: An application for immigrant visa and retained by the American Consulate for inclusion in the immigrant visa package, or an immigrant petition or application and included in a Service administrative file. Applicants should indicate that they wish to rely on such documents and identify the administrative file(s) by name and alien number. The Service will only request the required documentation again if necessary. The following is a list of documents that must be submitted with the N-600 if the Service does not already have the document or if the applicant would rather resubmit the document than wait for the retrieval of the Service file. Unless specifically noted otherwise, every applicant must submit each of the documents listed below for himself/herself and the U.S. citizen parent(s) through whom the applicant is claiming U.S. citizenship.

Any document in a foreign language must be accompanied by a translation in English. The translator must certify that he/she is competent to translate and that the translation is true and accurate. For each document needed, you may submit a clear, readable copy or the originals. Do not send an original Certificate of Citizenship or Certificate of Naturalization. The Service may request that you present original documents at the interview.

- **Photographs** - *(Only required of the person to whom the Certificate of Citizenship will be issued)*

You must submit three identical, unglazed photographs taken within 30 days of the date of filing of this application. The photographs should be 2" x 2", and must be in natural color and taken without any headdress (unless the applicant is wearing a headdress as required by a religious order of which he or she is a member). The dimensions of the face should be about 1 inch from the top of the hair to the chin. The face should be a 3/4 frontal view with the entire right ear visible. The photographs must be on thin paper with a light background and not mounted in any way. The photographs must not be signed but you should print your name (or if a U.S. citizen parent applying on behalf of a minor child, the child's name) and alien registration number in the center of the back of each photograph with a soft lead pencil.

- **Birth Certificate or Record** - A certified birth certificate or record issued by a civil authority in the country of birth.
- **Marriage Certificate(s)** - Certified marriage certificate(s) issued by a civil authority in the state or country of marriage.
- **Documents showing the termination of a marriage** - Examples include a divorce decree, death certificate, or annulment document.
- **Proof of U.S. citizenship** - Examples of this are birth certificates showing birth in the United States; an N-550, Certificate of Naturalization; an N-560, Certificate of Citizenship; an FS-240, Report of Birth Abroad of United States Citizen; or a valid unexpired U.S passport.
- **Proof of Status as National of United States** - *(Only required for applicants claiming U.S. citizenship through a national of the United States, such as a person born in American Samoa or Swains Islands. A person is born a citizen if born outside of the United States and its outlying possessions of parents one of whom is a citizen of the United States who has been physically present in the United States or one of its outlying possessions for a continuous period of one year prior to the birth of such person, and the other of whom is a national, but not a citizen of the United States. If the non-citizen parent is an alien, but not a national, the citizen parent would need 5 years or 10 years of physical presence, depending on the date of birth, prior to the child's birth.)*
- **Proof of Legitimation** - *(Only required for applicants who were born out of wedlock).*

Documents must establish legitimation according to the laws of the child's residence or domicile or father's residence or domicile (if applicable). Legitimation for INA benefits requires that the child be in the legal custody of the legitimating parent(s) at the time of legitimation.
- **Proof of Legal Custody** - *(Only required for applicants whose U.S. citizen parent(s) divorced and/or separated and for applicants who are adopted or legitimated).*
- **Copy of Permanent Resident Card or Other Evidence of Lawful Permanent Resident Status** - *(Only required for applicants claiming U.S. citizenship through alien parent(s) who naturalized or claiming automatic acquisition of U.S. citizenship while under the age of 18 under section 320 of INA.)*
- **Proof of required residence or physical presence in the United States** - Any document that proves the U.S citizen parent(s)' residence or physical presence in the United States. This proof may include but is not limited to the following:
  - School, employment, military records;
  - Deeds, mortgages, leases showing residence;
  - Attestations by churches, unions, or other organizations;
  - Social Security quarterly reports;
  - Affidavits of third parties having knowledge of the residence and physical presence.
- **Copy of full, final adoption decree** - *(Only required for adopted applicants).*
- **Evidence of all legal name changes.**

#### WHAT IF A DOCUMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE?

If it is not possible to obtain any one of the above-required documents, you must establish why the evidence is not available. You may be required to submit an original written statement from the relevant government or other authority explaining the reason for the unavailability of the document(s). You may submit the following **secondary evidence** for consideration. However, secondary documents that do not overcome the availability of primary documents may result in denial of the application:

- **Baptismal certificate:** A certificate under the seal of the church where the baptism occurred, showing the date and place of the child's birth, date of baptism, the names of the godparents, if known.
- **Church records:** A certificate under the church seal issued within two months of birth.
- **School record:** A letter from authorities of the school attended (preferably the first school), showing the date of admission to the school, the child's date of birth or age at that time, place of birth, and the names and places of birth of parents, if shown in the school records.

- **Census records:** State or federal census records showing the name(s) and place(s) of birth, and the date(s) of birth or age(s) of the person(s) listed.
- **Affidavits:** Written statements sworn (or affirmed) to by two persons who have personal knowledge of the claimed event (i.e., the date and place of a birth, marriage, or death). The persons may be relatives and need not be citizens of the United States. Each affidavit should contain the following information regarding the person making the affidavit: his (her) full name and address; date and place of birth; relationship to the applicant, if any; full information concerning the event; and complete details concerning how he (she) acquired knowledge of the event.

#### HOW DO I COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION?

- Please print clearly or type your answers using CAPITAL letters in each box.
- Use black or blue ink.
- **If the child has an INS "A" number, write your INS "A" number in the place indicated on the top right hand corner of the first page.** Use your INS "A" number on the Permanent Resident Card (formerly known as the Alien Registration Receipt or "Green" Card), if you have one. Otherwise, use the INS "A" number reflected on the Service-issued travel document. If the "A" number has fewer than 9 numbers, place enough zeros before the first number to make a *total of 9 numbers* on the application. For example, write card number A1234567 as A001234567, or write card number A12345678 as A012345678.
- Persons who became citizens under several very different sections of law use this form. Only those sections of this form that are relevant to the eligibility of an applicant need be completed.
- If a question does not apply to you, write N/A (meaning "Not Applicable") in the space provided.
- If you need extra space to answer any item:
  - Attach a separate sheet of paper (or more sheets if needed);
  - Write your name, your "A" number (if available), and "N-600" on the top right corner of the sheet; and
  - Write the number of each question for which you are providing additional information.

#### STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

This form is divided into 10 parts. The information below will help you fill out the form.

##### Part 1. Information About Your Child

The person seeking the certificate of citizenship should complete information in this section.

**NOTE:** If you are a U.S. citizen parent applying for a certificate of citizenship on behalf of your minor biological or adopted child, give information for your **minor child**.

- A. Current legal name** - Your current legal name is the name on the birth certificate unless it has been changed after birth by a legal action such as a marriage, adoption, or court order.
- B. Name exactly as it appears on your Permanent Resident Card** (if different from above) - Write your name exactly as it appears on the card, even if it is misspelled.
- C. Other names used since birth** - If you have ever used any other names since birth, write them in this section. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.
- D. Social Security Number** - Print your Social Security number. If the child does not have a Social Security number, write "N/A" in the space provided.
- E. Date of Birth** - Use eight numbers to show your date of birth (example: May 1, 1979, should be written 05/01/1979).
- F. Country of Birth** - Give the name of the country where you were born. Write the name of the country even if it no longer exists. If the name of the country has changed, write the name of the country as it was at the time of your birth.
- G. Country of Prior Nationality** - If you were a citizen of a different country before becoming a United States citizen, write the name of the country of your prior nationality.
  - If the country no longer exists and/or the child is stateless, write the name of the country where the child was last a citizen or national.

- If you were a citizen or national of more than one country, write the name of the foreign country that issued your last passport.

**H. Gender** - Indicate whether male or female.

**I. Height** - Give your height in feet and inches.

### Part 2. Information About Your Eligibility

Check the box in **Section A** that indicates why you are eligible for a certificate of citizenship.

If you are a U.S. citizen parent applying for a certificate of citizenship on behalf of a minor biological child, check the box in either **Section B** or **C**, indicating whether you are applying for a biological or adopted child.

If the basis for your eligibility is not described in any of the categories, check **Box D "Other"** and briefly write the basis for your application on the lines provided.

### Part 3. Additional Information About You

The person seeking the certificate of citizenship should complete information in this section.

**NOTE:** If you are a U.S. citizen parent applying for a certificate of citizenship on behalf of your minor biological or adopted child, give information for your **minor child**.

**A. Home Address** - Give the address where you now live. Do NOT put post office (P.O.) box numbers here.

**B. Mailing Address** - If your mailing address is the same as the home address, write "same." If the mailing address is different from your home address, write it in this part. Provide "Care Of" information if applicable.

**C. Telephone Numbers (Optional)** - Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses allow the Service to contact you more quickly about the application. If you are hearing impaired and use a TTY telephone connection, please indicate this by writing "(TTY)" after the telephone number.

**D. Current Marital Status** - Check the marital status you have on the date you are filing this application. If you are currently not married, but

had a prior marriage that was annulled (declared by a court to be invalid) check "Other" and provide an explanation.

### E. Information About Your Child's Entry Into the United States and Current Immigration Status -

1. Please provide information about where you entered the U.S. and what name you used when you entered.

2. Please provide information about what documents you presented to enter the United States. Provide your passport number and date of issuance, if known.

3. Please provide information about your immigration status on entry into the United States.

4. If you adjusted to lawful permanent resident status while in the United States, please provide the date you became a lawful permanent resident and place where such status was granted.

**F. Previous Application for Certificate of Citizenship or U.S. Passport** - If you previously applied for a certificate of citizenship or a U.S. passport (or you are a U.S. citizen parent who previously applied for a certificate of citizenship or U.S. passport for your minor child), indicate on a separate piece of paper what happened with the application and whether a certificate of citizenship or U.S. passport was or was not issued.

**G. Information on Adoption** - If you were adopted, provide information as to the place and date of adoption.

**H. Re-adoption in the United States** - Children who are admitted to the United States under section 101(b)(1)(F) of the INA as IR-4s (orphans coming to the United States to be adopted by U.S. citizen parent(s)) do not automatically acquire citizenship on entry, even though admitted as lawful permanent residents. Children admitted as IR-4s must have been finally adopted in the United States or had the foreign adoption recognized by the state where the child is permanently residing. If you had to be re-adopted in the United States before you could acquire citizenship automatically, provide the information requested. If the appropriate authority in your current place of residence recognizes the validity of a full, final foreign adoption, submit evidence of this.

**I. Marital Status of Parents At Time of Birth (or Adoption)** - Indicate whether the child's parents were married to each other at the time of the child's birth. If the child was born out-of-wedlock, indicate "No", even if the parents subsequently married. If the child was adopted, indicate whether the adoptive parents were married to each other at the time of the adoption.

If you are a U.S. citizen parent applying on behalf of a minor biological or adopted child, indicate whether you were married to the child's natural (or adoptive mother) at the time of your minor child's birth (or adoption). If your minor child was born out of wedlock, indicate "No", even if you subsequently married the child's other parent.

**J. Absences from the United States** - Provide the requested information for every trip that you have taken since you first arrived in the United States. Begin with the most recent trip. This information is only needed for persons born before October 10, 1952 who are claiming United States citizenship at time of birth.

#### **Part 4. Information About the U.S. Citizen Father (or Adoptive Father)**

Information in this section should be completed if you are claiming citizenship through a U.S. citizen father (or adoptive father). If you are claiming citizenship solely through a U.S. citizen mother (or adoptive mother), **Go to Part 5.**

**NOTE:** If you are a U.S. citizen father or mother (or adoptive father or mother) applying for citizenship and a certificate of citizenship on behalf of your minor child, where information is requested about in this section, **provide information about YOURSELF in the sections noted.**

**A. Current legal name** - Give current legal name of the U.S. citizen father. It is the name on the birth certificate unless it was changed after birth by a legal action such as a marriage, adoption, or court order.

**B. Date of Birth** - Use eight numbers to show the U.S. citizen father's date of birth (example: May 1, 1969, should be written 05/01/1969).

**C. Country of Birth** - Give the name of the country where the U.S. citizen father was born. Write the name of the country even if it no longer exists. If the name of the country has changed, write the name of the country as it was at the time of the U.S. citizen father's birth.

**D. Country of Nationality** - Write the name of the country where the U.S. citizen father is currently a citizen or national. If the country no longer exists and/or you are stateless, write the name of the country where the U.S. citizen father was last a citizen or national.

**E. Home Address** - Give the address where the U.S. citizen father now lives. Do NOT put post office (P.O.) box numbers here. If the U.S. citizen father is deceased, write "deceased" and provide the date of death.

**F. United States Citizenship** - Indicate how the U.S. citizen father became a U.S. citizen. Provide all the requested information.

**G. Loss of United States Citizenship** - Indicate whether the U.S. citizen father ever lost his U.S. citizenship. Provide this information even if the U.S. citizen father regained citizenship at a later date.

**H. Residence and/or Physical Presence** - Only applicants who are claiming to have been born United States citizens outside the United States are required to provide all the dates when their U.S. citizen father was in the United States. Dates should include all time immediately after birth as well as after the age of 14 and older.

#### **I. Marital History**

1. Write the number of times the U.S. citizen mother was married. Include any annulled marriages. If she was married more than one time to the same spouse, count each time as a separate marriage.

2. If now married, provide information about the U.S. citizen mother's current spouse. Check appropriate box to indicate his immigration status.

- Indicate whether the U.S. citizen mother's current spouse is also your parent. If "No", you will be asked to provide information about your mother's previous spouse or spouses.

**Part 5. Information About Your U.S. Citizen Mother (or Adoptive Mother)**

Information in this section should be completed if you are claiming citizenship through a U.S. citizen mother (or adoptive mother).

**NOTE:** If you are a U.S. citizen mother (or adoptive mother) applying for a certificate of citizenship on behalf of your minor child, where information is requested about "the U.S. citizen mother", **provide information about YOURSELF in the sections noted.**

- Current legal name** - Give current legal name of the U.S. citizen mother. It is the name on her birth certificate unless it was changed after birth by a legal action such as a marriage, adoption, or court order.
- Date of Birth** - Use eight numbers to show the U.S. citizen mother's date of birth (example: May 1, 1969, should be written 05/01/1969).
- Country of Birth** - Give the name of the country where the U.S. citizen mother was born. Write the name of the country even if it no longer exists. If the name of the country has changed, write the name of the country as it was at the time of the U.S. citizen mother's birth.
- Country of Nationality** - Write the name of the country where the U.S. citizen father is currently a citizen or national. If the country no longer exists and/or you are stateless, write the name of the country where the U.S. citizen mother was last a citizen or national.
- Home Address** - Give the address where the U.S. citizen mother now lives. Do NOT put post office (P.O.) box numbers here. If the U.S. citizen mother is deceased, write "deceased" and provide the date of death.
- United States Citizenship** - Indicate how the U.S. citizen mother became a U.S. citizen. Provide all the requested information.

- Loss of United States Citizenship** - Indicate whether the U.S. citizen mother ever lost her U.S. citizenship. Provide this information even if the U.S. citizen mother regained citizenship at a later date.

- Residence and/or Physical Presence** - Only applicants who are claiming to have been born United States citizens outside of the United States are required to provide all the dates when the U.S. citizen mother was in the United States. Dates should include all time immediately after birth as well as after the age of 14 and older.

**I. Marital History**

- Write the number of times the U.S. citizen mother was married. Include any annulled marriages. If she was married more than one time to the same spouse, count each time as a separate marriage.
- If now married, provide information about the U.S. citizen mother's current spouse. Check appropriate box to indicate his immigration status.
- Indicate whether the U.S. citizen mother's current spouse is also your parent. If "No", you will be asked to provide information about your mother's previous spouse or spouses.

**Part 6. Information About Military Service of U.S. Citizen Parent -- (Applicable *only* for applications filed under sections 301(g) of 309.)**

Provide requested information if either U.S. citizen parent served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Also indicate whether he or she was nononorably discharged from service.

**Part 7. Your Signature**

If you are over the age of 18 and you are filing this application for yourself, you must sign and date the application. If you do not sign the application, the Service will return the application to you.

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If you are under the age of 18 and your U.S. citizen parent or legal guardian is filing the application on your behalf, your U.S. citizen parent or legal guardian must sign and date the application. If your U.S. citizen parent or legal guardian does not sign the application, the application will be returned.

**Part 8. Signature of Person Preparing Form  
If Other Than Applicant**

If you do not fill out the Form N-600 yourself, the preparer must also sign, date, and give his or her address. If the preparer is a business or organization, its name must be included on the form.

**Part 9. Affidavit**

**DO NOT COMPLETE THIS PART. You will be asked to complete this part at the interview.**

**Part 10. Officer Report and Recommendation**

**DO NOT COMPLETE THIS PART. For INS use only.**

**PENALTIES**

INS wants to make sure that you receive the requested immigration benefit if you are eligible for it. To do this, we may ask for more evidence, interview you, and/or conduct an investigation. **If you give us false documents, misrepresent facts, or otherwise engage in fraud, INS will take appropriate action.** This means we will not only deny your application, but you may lose current and future immigration benefits and you may face penalties including criminal and/or civil prosecution leading to fines and/or imprisonment.

**PRIVACY ACT NOTICE**

INS will use the information and evidence requested on Form N-600 to determine your eligibility for the requested immigration benefit. We may provide information from your application to other government agencies.

**PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE**

You are not required to respond to this form unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. INS strives to create forms and instructions that are accurate, easy to understand and impose the least possible burden on you to provide the information and evidence needed to process your application.

For this application we estimate that it takes 15 minutes to learn about the law, form, and process. The time it takes to complete the form is estimated at 20 minutes and 1 hour to assemble and file the application, including average travel time. The total preparation time is estimated at 1 hour and 35 minutes. If you have comments about this estimate or suggestions for simplifying this form, write to:

Immigration and Naturalization Service  
HQRF5  
425 "I" Street, N.W., Room 4034  
Washington, D.C. 20536;  
OMB No. 1115-0018

**DO NOT MAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION TO THIS ADDRESS.**