



Fact Sheet

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AFTER BIRTH FOR CHILDREN OF U.S. CITIZENS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES

This fact sheet addresses questions about U.S. citizenship after birth for children who are residing in the United States with at least one U.S. citizen parent.

*If you are a U.S. armed forces member stationed and residing outside the United States, please see this [fact sheet](#).

I became a U.S. citizen through naturalization. Is my child, who was born outside the United States, a U.S. citizen?

If your child satisfies one of the definitions of child and was still under the age of 18 when you became a U.S. citizen, the child may have automatically become a U.S. citizen on the date of your naturalization if they met the following conditions:

- Must be unmarried and have lawful permanent resident (LPR) status; and
- Must reside in the United States in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent.

If your child met the conditions listed above at any time after your naturalization, while the child was still under the age of 18, your child may have automatically become a U.S. citizen when all the conditions were met.

Who Is Considered to Be a Child?

For purposes of citizenship, a child is defined as:

- The genetic child of a U.S. citizen mother;
- The adopted (including an orphan or Hague Convention adoptee) child of a U.S. citizen mother or father (See uscis.gov/adoption);
- The genetic, legitimated child of a U.S. citizen father;
- The child of a non-genetic gestational U.S. citizen mother (person who carried and gave birth to the child) who is recognized as the child's legal parent; or
- The child of a U.S. citizen mother or father who is married to the child's genetic or gestational parent at the time of the child's birth (even if no genetic or gestational relationship exists with the U.S. citizen mother) if both parents are recognized as the child's legal parents.

Do Both Parents Need to Be Naturalized for the Child to Gain U.S. Citizenship?

No, for any child who was born on or after Feb. 27, 2001, or who was under the age of 18 on that date and met all the requirements on or after that date, only one U.S. citizen parent is needed to gain citizenship.

Children who were 18 years of age or over on that date (born before Feb. 27, 1983) generally need both parents to be U.S. citizens to gain U.S. citizenship, although there are exceptions. See Policy Manual [\[12 USCIS-PM H.4\(D\)\]](#).

Can My Stepchild Become a U.S. Citizen When I Become a Citizen?

No, stepchildren cannot gain citizenship from U.S. citizen stepparents, unless they were adopted by the U.S. citizen stepparent and the adoption satisfies certain criteria. See uscis.gov/adoption.

What Should I Do to Obtain Proof of U.S. Citizenship for My Child?

You may file Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, with USCIS. A Certificate of Citizenship is proof of U.S. citizenship status. See www.uscis.gov/n-600. Alternatively, you may also apply for a U.S. passport for your child with the Department of State (DOS). A U.S. passport is also proof of U.S. citizenship. See <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/need-passport.html>.

What Documents Should I Provide in Support of Form N-600?

Together with Form N-600, you should submit the following required evidence:

- The child's birth certificate or record and any legal name changes;
- Evidence of parent's United States citizenship (for example, copy of birth certificate, naturalization certificate or passport);
- Evidence of child's LPR status (copy of LPR card);
- Evidence that the child resides with the U.S. citizen parent in the U.S. citizen parent's legal and physical custody (copy of divorce decree, legal separation, and/or custody determination if applicable);
- Marriage certificate of child's parents, and proof of termination of any previous marriage of each parent, if applicable;
- Evidence of legitimation of the child, if the child was born out of wedlock and is claiming citizenship through the father, if required. See USCIS Policy Manual, www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-h-chapter-2#S-B; and
- If the child was adopted, a copy of the full, final adoption decree. See the Fact Sheet [Securing U.S. Citizenship for Your Child](#).

Resources

- USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 12, Citizenship and Naturalization, Part H, Children of U.S. Citizens, Chapter 4, Automatic Acquisition of Citizenship after Birth (INA 320) [\[12 USCIS-PM H.4\]](#)
- [FACT SHEET](#) - Citizenship at Birth for Children of U.S. Citizens Born Outside the United States
- [FACT SHEET](#) - Citizenship for Children of U.S. Citizens Residing Outside the United States
- [FACT SHEET](#) - Citizenship for Children of U.S. Armed Forces Members Residing Outside the United States