What Is the Purpose of This Form?

Form N-600 is an application for a Certificate of Citizenship.

Who Should Use Form N-600?

1. You may use this form if you claim U.S. citizenship either by action of law while residing in the United States or by having been born outside the United States to U.S. citizen parent(s).

2. If you are the biological or adopted child of a U.S. citizen, you were born outside the United States, and you are claiming citizenship by action of law, you automatically become a U.S. citizen if:
   
   A. You have at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen, whether by birth or naturalization; and
   
   B. You regularly reside in the United States in the legal and physical custody of your U.S. citizen parent; and
   
   C. You have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (NOTE: If you entered the United States as an adopted child, you must have been admitted as an IR-3 (child adopted outside the United States). If you entered as an IR-4 (child coming to the United States to be adopted), a final adoption must take place for this section of law to apply to you; and
   
   D. You have not yet reached your 18th birthday; and
   
   E. You are a biological child, you were legitimate, or you were legitimated while in the legal custody of your legitimating parent(s) prior to reaching your 16th birthday; or
   
   F. You are a biological child born out of wedlock and you have not been legitimated and your mother naturalizes as a U.S. citizen.

NOTE: If you are now over the age of 18 years but all of the above conditions applied to you before your 18th birthday and you were under the age of 18 on February 27, 2001 (the date the law took effect), you may file this form to obtain a certificate of citizenship.

3. If you were under the age of 18 on February 27, 2001, but not all of the conditions noted above were met prior to your 18th birthday, you must qualify for U.S. citizenship in your own right.

4. You may also file for a certificate of citizenship if all of the following actions occurred before your 18th birthday and prior to February 27, 2001:
   
   A. You regularly resided in the United States after admission as a lawful permanent resident, and
   
   B. Both of your parents, the parent having legal and physical custody of you, or your sole surviving parent naturalized as a U.S. citizen.

5. If you are the biological child of a U.S. citizen, you were born outside the United States and you are claiming citizenship by having been born to U.S. citizen parent(s), you automatically become a U.S. citizen at birth if:
   
   A. You were born to two U.S. citizen parents and at least one of your parents had a residence in the United States or one of its outlying possessions. This residence had to have taken place prior to your birth; or
   
   B. You were born to parents, one of whom is an alien and the other a U.S. citizen who, prior to your birth, had been physically present in the United States or one of its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after the age of 14 years.

NOTE: To determine if you were born a U.S. citizen, USCIS must look at the law that was in effect at the time of your birth. The current law was enacted on November 14, 1986, and was last amended on February 27, 2001. If you were born before November 14, 1986, and believe you may be a U.S. citizen, you should contact USCIS by calling our National Customer Service Center 1-800-375-5283 or visiting our internet website at http://www.uscis.gov.

Who May File This Form?

1. Form N-600 may be filed by any person claiming to have acquired (at birth) or derived (after birth) U.S. citizenship through a U.S. citizen parent.

2. Any person who was born a U.S. citizen outside the United States or who fulfilled the requirements for becoming a U.S. citizen prior to their 18th birthday may file this form at any time during his or her lifetime.
3. In the case of minor adopted or biological children (under 18 years) qualifying for citizenship under section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), the application must be filed by the U.S. citizen parent or legal guardian with legal and physical custody of the child.

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

Who May Not File This Form?

1. Persons who do not have a claim to citizenship either at the time of birth or by action of law.

2. Stepchildren.

3. Children who are not legitimate or who were not legitimated prior to their 16th birthday. (Except for children who were born abroad to an eligible U.S. citizen mother or eligible children who became citizens through the naturalization of their mother).


Where To File?

The completed Form N-600 and accompanying documentation must be filed with the appropriate USCIS district or field office in the United States with jurisdiction over your place of residence.

What Is the Filing Fee?

The fee for this Form N-600 is $460.00, except for U.S. citizen parents requesting a Certificate of Citizenship for an adopted child.

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 $420.00.

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 for the Form N-600.

1. 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; and

2. Make the check or money order payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security, unless:

A. If you live in Guam and are filing your petition there, make it payable to Treasurer, Guam.

B. If you live in the U.S. Virgin Islands and are filing your petition there, make it payable to Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands.

C. If you live outside the United States, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for instructions on the method of payment.

NOTE: Please spell out U.S. Department of Homeland Security; do not use the initials "USDHS" or "DHS."

Notice to Those Making Payment by Check. If you send us a check, it will be converted into an electronic funds transfer (EFT). This means we will copy your check and use the account information on it to electronically debit your account for the amount of the check. The debit from your account will usually take 24 hours, and will be shown on your regular account statement.

You will not receive your original check back. We will destroy your original check, but we will keep a copy of it. If the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in place of your original check. If the EFT cannot be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer up to two times.

How to Check If the Fees Are Correct.

The form and biometric fees on this form are current as of the edition date appearing in the lower right corner of this page. However, because USCIS fees change periodically, you can verify if the fees are correct by following one of the steps below:

1. Visit our website at www.uscis.gov, select "Immigration Forms," and check the appropriate fee;

2. Review the Fee Schedule included in your form package if you called us to request the form; or

3. Telephone our National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 and ask for the fee information.

General Instructions.

Step 1. Fill Out the Form N-600

1. Type or print legibly in black ink.

2. If extra space is needed to complete any item, attach a continuation sheet, indicate the item number, and date and sign each sheet.
3. Write your name, your "A" number (if any) and "N-600" on the top right corner of the sheet.

4. Answer all questions fully and accurately. State that an item is not applicable with "N/A." If the answer is none, write "none."

5. If you are the applicant or you are filing for a child and you or the child have an A-number, write that A-number in the place indicated on the top right hand corner of the first page. If there is no A-number, leave this blank. The A-number can be found on you or the child's Permanent Resident Card, if applicable, or on DHS issued travel documents or letters.

6. If the A-number has fewer than nine numbers, place enough zeros before the first number to make a total of nine numbers on the application. For example, A 12 345 678 as A 012 345 678.

7. Individuals can become citizens under several very different sections of law and can use this form to obtain a certificate of citizenship. You only need to complete those sections of the form that relate to you or the child's eligibility.

Step 2. General Requirements.

You do not need to submit documents that were provided in connection with:

1. An application for an immigrant visa and retained by the U.S. embassy or consulate for inclusion in the immigrant visa package, or

2. An immigrant petition or application and included in a USCIS administrative file. You should indicate that you want USCIS to rely on such documents and identify the administrative file(s) by name and A-number. USCIS will only request the required documentation again if necessary.

3. The following is a list of documents that must be submitted with the Form N-600, if the USCIS does not already have the document or if you would rather resubmit the document than wait for the retrieval of the USCIS file. Unless specifically noted otherwise, you must submit each of the documents listed below for yourself and/or your child and the U.S. citizen parent(s) through whom you are claiming U.S. citizenship.

A. Translations - Any document in a foreign language must be accompanied by a translation in English. The translator must certify that he or 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. USCIS may request that you present original documents at the interview.

B. Birth certificate or record - A certified birth certificate or record issued by a civil authority in the country of birth.

C. Marriage certificate(s) - Certified marriage certificate(s) issued by a civil authority in the state or country of marriage.

D. Documents showing the termination of a marriage
    Examples include a divorce decree, death certificate, or annulment document.


G. 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 to meet the physical presence requirement, depending on the date of birth, prior to the child's birth.

H. 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.
I. **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).

J. **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.)

K. **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:
   1. School, employment, military records;
   2. Deeds, mortgages, leases showing residence;
   3. Attestations by churches, unions, or other organizations;
   4. U.S. Social Security quarterly reports;
   5. Affidavits of third parties having knowledge of the residence and physical presence.

L. **Copy of full, final adoption decree** - (Only required for adopted applicants).

M. **Evidence of all legal name changes**.

4. 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).

A. **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.

B. **Church records** - A certificate under the church seal issued within two months of birth.

C. **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.

D. **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.

E. **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 or 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 or she acquired knowledge of the event.

**Photographs.**

(Photographs only required of the person to whom the Certificate of Citizenship will be issued).

You must submit two identical color photographs of yourself taken within 30 days of the filing of this application. The photos must have a white to off-white background, be printed on thin paper with a glossy finish, and be unmounted and unretouched.

Passport-style photos must be 2" x 2." The photos must be in color with full face, frontal view on a white to off-white background. Head height should measure 1" to 1 3/8" from top of hair to bottom of chin, and eye height is between 1 1/8" to 1 3/8" from bottom of photo. Your head must be bare unless you are wearing a headdress as required by a religious order of which you are a member.

The photographs must not be signed. Using a soft lead pencil, 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 (if applicable) in the center of the back of each photograph.

**Step-by-Step Instructions.**

This form is divided into ten 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, provide information relating to your **minor child**.
1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **U.S. Social Security Number** - Print your U.S. Social Security Number. If the child does not have a U.S. Social Security Number, write "N/A" in the space provided.

5. **Date of birth** - Use eight numbers to show your date of birth (example: May 1, 1979, should be written 05/01/1979).

6. **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.

7. **Country of prior nationality** - If you were a citizen of a different country before becoming a U.S. citizen, write the name of the country of your prior nationality.
   - A. 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.
   - B. If you were a citizen or national of more than one country, write the name of the foreign country that issued your last passport.

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

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

**Part 2. Information About Your Eligibility.**

Check the box in Section A that best 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 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.**

Complete information must be provided about the person seeking a Certificate of Citizenship.

**NOTE:** If you are a U.S. citizen parent applying for a Certificate of Citizenship on behalf of your minor biological or adopted child, submit information relating to your minor child.

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

2. **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.

3. **Telephone numbers** (optional) - Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses allow USCIS 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.

4. **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.

5. **Information about your child's entry into the United States and current immigration status** -
   - A. Provide information about where you entered the United States and what name you used when you entered.
   - B. Provide information about what documents you presented to enter the United States. Provide your passport number and date of issuance, if known.
   - C. Provide information about your immigration status on entry into the United States.
   - D. If you adjusted to lawful permanent resident status while in the United States, provide the date you became a lawful permanent resident and place where such status was granted.

6. **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.
7. Information on adoption - If you were adopted, provide information as to the place and date of the adoption.

8. 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 or your child had to be re-adopted in the United States, 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 needed only for persons born before October 10, 1952, who are claiming U.S. citizenship at the 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), see Part 5 of the form.

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

1. Current legal name - Give the U.S. citizen father's current legal name. It is the name on the birth certificate unless it was changed after birth by a legal action (marriage, adoption, or court order).

2. 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).

3. 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.

4. 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.

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


7. Loss of U. S. 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.

8. Residence and/or physical presence- Only applicants born outside the United States who are claiming to have been born U.S. citizens 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 years and older.

9. Marital history-

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

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

C. Indicate whether the U.S. citizen father's current spouse is also your parent. If "No," you will be asked to provide information about your father'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). If you are claiming citizenship solely through a U.S. citizen father (or adoptive father), see Part 4 of the form.

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

1. 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.

2. 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).

3. 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.

4. Country of nationality - Write the name of the country where the U.S. citizen mother 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.

5. 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.


7. Loss of U. S. 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.

8. Residence and/or physical presence - Only applicants who are claiming to have been born U.S. 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 years and older.

9. Marital history-
   A. 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.
   B. If now married, provide information about the U.S. citizen mother's current spouse. Check the appropriate box to indicate his immigration status.
   C. 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 section 301(g)

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

Part 7. Your Signature.

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

If you are under the age of 18 years 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 this Form N-600, the preparer must also sign, date and give his or her address. If the preparer is a business or organization, it is name must be included on the form.


Do not complete this part.


Do not complete this part.
If you change your address and you have an application or petition pending with USCIS, you may change your address on-line at www.uscis.gov, click on "Change your address with USCIS," and follow the prompts. Or you may complete and mail a Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card, to:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Change of Address
P.O. Box 7134
London, KY 40742-7134

For commercial overnight or fast freight services only, mail to:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Change of Address
1084-I South Laurel Road
London, KY 40744

Requests for more information or interview. We may request more information or evidence, or we may request that you appear at a USCIS office for an interview. We may also request that you submit the originals of any copy. We will return these originals when they are no longer required.

Decision. The decision on a Form N-600 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for the requested benefit. You will be notified of the decision in writing.

As an alternative to waiting in line for assistance at your local USCIS office, you can now schedule an appointment through our internet-based system, InfoPass. To access the system, visit our website. Use the InfoPass appointment scheduler and follow the screen prompts to set up your appointment.

InfoPass generates an electronic appointment notice that appears on the screen.

Penalties.

If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with this request, we will deny the benefit you are filing for, and may deny any other immigration benefit.

In addition, you will face severe penalties provided by law, and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Privacy Act Notice.

We ask for the information on this form, and associated evidence, to determine if you have established eligibility for the immigration benefit for which you are filing. Our legal right to ask for this information can be found in the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. We may provide this information to other government agencies. Failure to provide this information, and any requested evidence, may delay a final decision or result in denial of your Form N-600.

Paperwork Reduction Act.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor an information collection and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 1 hour and 35 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, completing and submitting the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Regulatory Management Division, 111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., 3rd Floor, Suite 3008, Washington, DC 20529. OMB No. 1615-0057. Do not mail your application to this address.

To order USCIS forms, call our toll-free number at 1-800-870-3676. You can also get USCIS forms and information on immigration laws, regulations, and procedures by telephoning our National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or visiting our internet website at www.uscis.gov.