

Note: References in the tables below to documents issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) include documents issued by the former Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), which is now known as the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within DHS.

Detailed description of Primary (Tier 1) evidence of citizenship documents	
Primary Documents	Explanation
U.S. passport issued without limitation.	<p>The Department of State issues this. A U.S. passport does not have to be currently valid to be accepted as evidence of U.S. citizenship, as long as it was originally issued without limitation.</p> <p>Note: Spouses and children were sometimes included on one passport through 1980. U.S. passports issued after 1980 show only one person. Consequently, the citizenship and identity of the included person can be established when one of these passports is presented.</p> <p>Exception: Do not accept any passport as evidence of U.S. citizenship when it was issued with a limitation. However, such a passport may be used as proof of identity.</p>
Certificate of Naturalization (DHS Forms N-550 or N-570)	Department of Homeland Security issues for naturalization.
Certificate of Citizenship (DHS Forms N-560 or N-561)	Department of Homeland Security issues certificate of citizenship to individuals who derive citizenship through a parent.

Detailed description of Secondary (Tier 2) evidence of citizenship document	
The Department's electronic verification of birth record information meets the requirement of citizenship documentation. No further citizenship documentation is necessary, however identity will still need to be verified.	
Secondary Documents	Explanation
<p>A U.S. public birth certificate showing birth in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the 50 . States; • District of Columbia; • American Samoa • Swains Island • *Puerto Rico (if born on or after January 13, 1941); • *Virgin Islands of the U.S. (on or after January 17, 1917); • *Northern Mariana Islands (after November 4, 1986 (NMI local time)); or • Guam (on or after April 10, 1899) 	<p>The birth record document may be issued by the State, Commonwealth, Territory or local jurisdiction. It must have been issued before the person was 5 years of age.</p> <p>An amended birth record document that is amended after 5 years of age is considered fourth level evidence of citizenship.</p> <p>Note: If the document shows the individual was born in Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the U.S., or the Northern Mariana Islands before these areas became part of the U.S., the individual may be a collectively naturalized citizen. Collective naturalization occurred on the dates listed for each of the Territories. *See additional requirements for Collective Naturalization .</p>
Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350)	<p>The Department of State issues a DS-1350 to U.S. citizens in the U.S. who were born outside the U.S. and acquired U.S. citizenship at birth, based on the information shown on the FS-240. When the birth was recorded as a Consular Report of Birth(FS-240), certified copies of the Certification of Report of Birth Abroad (DS-1350) can be issued by the Department of State in Washington D.C. The DS-1350 contains the same information as that on the current version of Consular Report of Birth FS-240. The DS-1350 is not issued outside the U.S.</p>
Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen (Form FS-240)	<p>The Department of State consular office prepares and issues this. A consular Report of Birth can be prepared only at an American consular office overseas while the child is under the age of 18. Children born outside the U.S. to U.S. military personnel usually have one of these.</p>
Certification of Birth	Before November 1, 1990, Department of State consulates also

issued by the Department of State (Form FS-545 or DS-1350)	issued Form FS-545 along with the prior version of the FS-240. In 1990, U.S. consulates ceased to issue Form FS-545. Treat an FS-545 the same as the DS-1350.
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Detailed description of Secondary (Tier 2) evidence of citizenship documents (Continued)	
Secondary Documents	Explanation
U.S. Citizen I.D. Card (I-197) or the prior version I-179 (Note that section 1903(x) of the Act incorrectly refers to the same document as an I-97)	INS issued the I-179 from 1960 until 1973. It revised the form and renumbered it as Form I-197. INS issued the I-197 from 1973 until April 7, 1983. INS issued Form I-179 and I-197 to naturalized U.S. citizens living near the Canadian or Mexican border who needed it for frequent border crossings. Although neither form is currently issued, either form that was previously issued is still valid.
American Indian Card (I-872)	DHS issues this card to identify a member of the Texas Band of Kickapoos living near the U.S./Mexican border. A classification code "KIC" and a statement on the back denote U.S. citizenship.
Northern Mariana Identification Card (I-873)	The former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) issued the I-873 to a collectively naturalized citizen of the U.S. who was born in the Northern Mariana Islands before November 4, 1986. The card is no longer issued, but those previously issued are still valid.
Final adoption decree	The adoption decree must show the child's name and U.S. place of birth. In situations where an adoption is not finalized and the State in which the child was born will not release a birth certificate prior to final adoption, a statement from a State approved adoption agency that shows the child's name and U.S. place of birth is acceptable. The adoption agency must state in the certification that the source of the place of birth information is an original birth certificate.
Evidence of U.S. Civil Service employment	The document must show employment by the U.S. government before June 1, 1976. Individuals employed by the U.S. Civil Service prior to June 1, 1976 had to be U.S. citizens
U.S. Military Record	The document must show a U.S. place of birth (for example a DD-214 or similar official document showing a U.S. place of birth)

Detailed description of Third Level (Tier 3) evidence of citizenship documents	
Third Level Documents	Explanation
Extract of hospital record on hospital letterhead established at the time of the person's birth that was created 5 years before the initial application date and that indicates a U.S. place of birth	Do not accept a souvenir "birth certificate" issued by the hospital. Note: For children under 16 the document must have been created near the time of birth or 5 years before the date of application.
Life, health, or other insurance record showing a U.S. place of birth that was created at least 5 years before the initial application date and that indicates a U.S. place of birth	Life or health insurance records may show biographical information for the person including place of birth; the record can be used to establish U.S. citizenship when it shows a U.S. place of birth.

Detailed description of fourth level (Tier 4) evidence of citizenship documents	
Fourth Level Documents	Explanation
Federal or state census record showing U.S. citizenship or a U.S. place of birth (Generally for persons born 1900 through 1950)	<p>The census record must also show the applicant's age.</p> <p>Note: Census records from 1900 through 1950 contain certain citizenship information. To secure this information, the applicant, recipient, or State should complete a Form BC-600, Application for Search of Census Records for Proof of Age. Add in the remarks portion "U.S. citizenship data requested." Also, add that the purpose is for Medicaid eligibility. This form requires a fee.</p>
One of the documents as listed in the explanation that show a U.S. place of birth and was created at least 5 years before the application for Medicaid	<p>This document must be one of the following and show a U.S. place of birth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seneca Indian tribal census record • Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal census records of the Navajo Indians • U.S. State Vital Statistics official notification of birth registration • An amended U.S. public birth record that is amended more than 5 years after the person's birth • Statement signed by the physician or midwife who was in attendance at the time of birth
Institutional admission papers from a nursing facility , skilled care facility, or other institution	Admission papers generally show biographical information for the person including place of birth; the record can be used to establish U.S. citizenship when it shows a U.S. place of birth.

Detailed description of level 4 (Tier 4) evidence of citizenship documents (Continued)	
Fourth Level Documents	Explanation
Medical (clinic, doctor, or hospital) record created at least 5 years before the initial application date that indicates a U.S. place of birth	<p>Medical records generally show biographical information for the person including place of birth; the record can be used to establish U.S. citizenship when it shows a U.S. place of birth.</p> <p>Note: An immunization record is not considered a medical record for purposes of establishing U.S. citizenship.</p> <p>Note: For children under 16, the document must have been created near the time of birth or 5 years before the date of application.</p>
Written Affidavit	<p>Affidavits may be used in circumstances where no other acceptable documentary evidence of citizenship is available. In order for an affidavit to be acceptable to establish citizenship the following requirements must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other evidence of citizenship can be easily obtained by the applicant or beneficiary. • The affidavit(s) must be signed under penalty of perjury by at least two individuals who have personal knowledge of the event(s) establishing the applicant's or beneficiary's claim of citizenship. • At least one of the individuals providing an affidavit must not be related to the applicant or beneficiary who is the subject of the affidavit. • The individuals making the affidavit must provide proof of their own citizenship and identity. • If the affidavits do not explain why other evidence is unavailable, an additional affidavit should be requested from the applicant or beneficiary which includes that information. • The applicant or beneficiary whose citizenship is addressed in the affidavit must provide acceptable evidence of identity.

Detailed description of identity documents (tier 5)	
Documents to Establish Identity	Explanation
Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood, or other U.S. American Indian/Alaska Native Tribal document.	Acceptable if the document carries a photograph of the applicant or recipient, or has other personal identifying information relating to the individual.
Identity documents described in 8 CFR 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(B)(1)	<p>8 CFR 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(B)(1) describes the following acceptable documents :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver's license issued by State or Territory either with a photograph of the individual or other identifying information of the individual such as name, age, sex, race, height, weight or eye color. • School identification card with a photograph of the individual • U.S. military card or draft record • Identification card issued by the Federal, State, or local government with the same information included on driver's licenses • Military dependent's identification card • Native American Tribal document • U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner card <p>For children under 16, school records may include nursery or daycare records.</p> <p>Exception: Do not accept a voter's registration card or Canadian driver's license as listed in 8 CFR 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(B)(1).</p>
U.S. passport issued with limitation.	The Department of State issues this. Do not accept any passport as evidence of U.S. citizenship when it was issued with a limitation. However, such a passport may be used as proof of identity. Such a passport does not have to be currently valid to be acceptable evidence of identity.
Special identity rules for children	For children under 16, school records may include nursery or daycare records. If none of the above documents in the preceding groups are available , an affidavit may be used. An affidavit is only acceptable if it is signed under penalty of perjury by a parent or guardian stating the date and place of birth of the child and cannot be used if an affidavit for citizenship was provided.