Proof of Citizenship and Identity
New Requirements for Medi-Cal Applicants

A new law says most Medi-Cal applicants must show proof of citizenship *and* proof of identity. Read below to learn more. Then, see the list of acceptable kinds of proof of citizenship and identity on the back.

Does *everyone* have to show proof of citizenship and identity?

No. The following U.S. citizens or nationals do *not* have to provide proof of citizenship or identity:

- Anyone getting Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Anyone getting Medicare
- Anyone age 14–21 asking for Minor Consent Services
- Babies under age one born to women who are on Medi-Cal
- Children in Title IV-E Foster Care or Title IV-E Adoption Assistance
- Babies in the Abandoned Baby Program

What if I am not one of the above people?

If you are a U.S. citizen or national, you must provide proof of citizenship and identity to be eligible for Medi-Cal. You cannot receive full-scope Medi-Cal benefits until you provide the proof.

What if I was born in California, but do not have proof of citizenship?

If you were born in California, the county can ask for your birth record. (A birth record is proof of citizenship.)

Fill out a *Request for California Birth Record* to ask the county to request your birth record. Then, mail or take this form to your local social services office. If a birth record cannot be found, you will need to provide another proof of citizenship.

What if I cannot provide proof of citizenship and identity?

Full scope Medi-Cal cannot begin until you provide proof of citizenship and identity. If you cannot provide your proof within a reasonable amount of time, but you meet all other eligibility requirements, you can get limited benefits. Limited benefits cover emergency, pregnancy-related, and long-term care services.

If you provide proof within one year of your application, your Medi-Cal benefits will be changed to full-scope starting from the date of your application.

Do immigrants have to provide proof of citizenship and identity, too?

No. If you are not a U.S. citizen or national, you only need to provide the same documents that were required before.

Do children have to provide proof of citizenship and identity, too?

Yes. If your child was born in California, ask your county to request the birth record as proof of your child's citizenship. You will still need to provide proof of identity.

Do I have to provide proof immediately?

If you do not have proof now, you can still apply now and provide your proof later.

If your child applies through CHDP Gateway, a School Lunch Program, or the Healthy Families/ Medi-Cal joint application, you do not have to provide proof until your county social services office asks you for it.

What if I need Medi-Cal right away?

Some pregnant women, children, and adults with disabilities can get Medi-Cal temporarily while the county reviews your application.

Do I have to provide proof of citizenship and identity each time I renew?

No. You only have to provide this information once – either when you first apply or on your next annual eligibility review.

Do you need *original* citizenship and identity documents?

Yes. We need the *original* citizenship and identity documents, or copies that have been certified by the issuing agency.

Can I mail my proof?

Yes. The county will make copies and mail them back to you. Or, you can *take* your documents to your local social services office. Ask them to make copies and give them back right away.

Acceptable Citizenship and Identity Documents

The easiest way to provide *both* proof of citizenship and identity is with **one** of these documents:

— U.S. Passport (issued without limitation)

— Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570)

— Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (N-560 or N-561)

– OR –

If you do not have one of the documents above, provide…

One document from this column

- U.S. Birth Certificate
- Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350)
- Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen (FS-240)
- State Department Certification of Birth (FS-545 or DS-1350)
- U.S. Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179)
- American Indian Card (I-872)
- Northern Marian Card (I-873)
- Final adoption decree
- Proof of employment by the U.S. civil service before June 1, 1976
- U.S. military service record that shows a U.S. place of birth
- U.S. hospital record that shows time and place of birth
- Life, health, or other insurance record that shows U.S. place of birth
- Federal or State census record that shows the applicant's age and U.S. citizenship (or U.S. place of birth)
- Seneca Indian tribal census record that shows U.S. place of birth*
- Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal census record of the Navajo Indians that shows a U.S. place of birth *
- U.S. State Vital Statistics birth registration notification*
- An amended U.S. public birth record (amended more than 5 years after the person's birth) *
- Statement by doctor or midwife present at the birth
- Admission papers from a nursing or other institution that shows U.S. place of birth *
- Medical record that shows U.S. place of birth

Medi-Cal prefers the documents at the top of the list.

If you **cannot** provide one of the above documents, you may ask two adults to fill out and sign an *Affidavit of Citizenship.* Both adults must have proof of their own identity and U.S. citizenship, and only one of them may be related to you.

** Must be dated at least 5 years before your 1st Medi-Cal application.*

AND

One document from this column

- Driver's license issued by a U.S. State or Territory with a photograph or other identifying information
- School Identification card with a photograph
- U.S. Military card or draft record
- Federal, state or local government ID card with same information as a driver's license
- Military dependent identification card
- A U.S. passport (issued with limitation)
- Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood or other U.S. American Indian/Alaska Native Tribal document
- U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card
- School, daycare, or nursery school records for a child under 16

For a child under 16 who did not provide an *Affidavit of Citizenship,* you may submit:

- An affidavit of the child's identity signed by the child's parent or guardian.
- A Medi-Cal application or the Healthy Families–Medi-Cal joint application that shows the child's date and place of birth, and is signed by the child's parent or guardian.

Need help?
If you have questions about proof of citizenship or identity, call your local social services office or eligibility worker.