

U.S. Citizen

An individual may be a U.S. citizen based on where they were born, having a U.S. citizen parent, by marriage or by naturalization as described below:

• **Citizen by Birth**

A person is a U.S. citizen if the person was born in the United States (including those born in current states before statehood) or in a U.S. territory. Territories are:

- Guam;
- Puerto Rico based on date of birth;
- The Virgin Islands based on date of birth;
- The Northern Mariana Islands based on date of birth;
- American Samoa;
- Swain's Island; and
- Panama Canal Zone based on date of birth.

EXCEPTION: This does not include a person who was born to foreign diplomats residing on one of the preceding jurisdictions.

• **Citizenship Through U.S. Citizen Parent**

A person born to U.S. citizen parents can meet the criteria for U.S. citizenship. The regulation used to evaluate U.S. citizenship through a parent is based on the age of the person on February 27, 2001, when the Children's Citizenship Act (CCA) became effective.

If the person was born...	THEN the person...
After February 27, 1983 (under age 18 on February 27, 2001)	<p>Automatically acquires U.S. citizenship under the CCA when all of the following requirements are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least one biological or adoptive parent is a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization.• The child is under age of 18.• The child is admitted to the U.S. as an immigrant. Immigrant means the child entered the U.S. on an immigrant visa and/or was admitted as a lawful permanent resident.• The child lives in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent(s).• An adopted child acquires U.S citizen status effective the date the child meets all the previously listed CCA requirements, and the full and final adoption is completed. <p>U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation is not required to prove U.S. citizenship for a person who meets the above requirements and permanently lives in the U.S.</p>

	<p>However, the person can obtain documentation by applying to the USCIS for a Certificate of Citizenship or to a passport acceptance facility for a U.S. passport.</p>
<p><u>On or before February 27, 1983</u> (18 years of age or older on February 27, 2001)</p>	<p>Acquires citizenship if the person's parents meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both parents are U.S. citizens and at least one parent lived in the U.S or its territories before the person's birth. • One parent is a U.S. citizen and the other is a non-citizen. The parent who is a citizen must have lived in the U.S., its possessions, or its territories for a total of five years before the person's birth. At least two of the five years must be after the parent reached age 14. <p>NOTE: Consider the parent to have had U.S. residence for any period of time that the parent lived outside of the U.S as one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A U.S. government employee • Serving in the U.S Armed Forces • Working for an international organization.

- **Citizenship Through Marriage**

A woman who married a U.S. citizen before September 22, 1922 established U.S. citizenship. This does not apply to a man who married a U.S. citizen.

- **Citizenship by Naturalization**

Individuals who are not U.S. citizens by birth or adoption may apply for and go through the naturalization process to become U.S. citizens.

A person born outside the U.S can derive U.S citizenship from parents who were naturalized as U.S. citizens if both parents (or sole custodial parent) were naturalized before:

- The person's 21st birthday if naturalization was before October 14, 1940; or
- The person's 18th birthday if naturalization was on or after October 14, 1940.

- **Dual citizenship**

An individual may be a U.S. citizen and a citizen of another country. A person claiming dual citizenship can lose U.S. citizenship only if the person voluntarily abandons it. Dual citizenship status does not affect the individual's U.S. citizenship.