



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

# Press Release

November 20, 2003

## **USCIS ANNOUNCES PROGRAM TO STREAMLINE PROCESS FOR CHILD CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATES**

Washington D.C. - Eduardo Aguirre, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), today announced an important step toward the fulfillment of the Child Citizenship Act (CCA). USCIS is launching a CCA Program to simplify and streamline the process by which parents obtain a Certificate of Citizenship for their children.

“I want prospective parents, who are seriously considering international adoption, to know that the process just got a little easier. This program will help parents to more rapidly realize the privileges of American citizenship for their children. It accelerates reassurance of their child’s citizenship status,” said Director Aguirre.

One of the Director’s eight strategic initiatives, the CCA Program will eliminate the backlog of N-643 forms (Application for Certificate of Citizenship in Behalf of an Adopted Child) relating to children affected by the CCA. Additionally, the program will soon automatically provide Certificates of Citizenship to certain adopted children within 45 days of entry into the United States. These Certificates of Citizenship will be produced and mailed to the parents without application and without fee.

Managed from the USCIS Buffalo, New York District Office, the program will initiate 45-day processing for children who fall within the IR-3 (Immediate Relative) visa category. The IR-3 visa accounts for approximately seventy percent of children adopted by U.S. Citizens, and is for cases where adoptions are made final overseas. This program will eliminate the issuance of a Permanent Resident Card for newly entering children, since these cards are not applicable to U.S. citizens.

The CCA of 2000 amended Section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, sanctioning automatic citizenship for certain children upon entry into the U.S., or upon adjustment of status to that of a Lawful Permanent Resident. At the time of enactment, the status of thousands of adopted children in the U.S. changed from Lawful Permanent Resident to United States Citizen.

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On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.