

**Instructions for Form N-600K, Application for  
Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate Under Section 322****What Is the Purpose of This Form?**

Form N-600K is an application for U.S. citizenship (naturalization) and issuance of a Certificate of Citizenship under section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) for a child **who regularly resides outside of the United States**.

**What Children Are Eligible for Naturalization Under Section 322?****General Requirements**

The child of a U.S. citizen may be naturalized if he or she meets **all** of the following criteria to be eligible for naturalization under section 322:

1. Is not married;
2. Is under the age of 18 years on the day he or she is naturalized;
3. Regularly resides outside of the United States;
4. Is in the legal **and** physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent (see "NOTE" below);
5. Has a U.S. citizen parent who has been physically present in the United States for a period or periods totaling at least 5 years at least 2 of which were after the age of 14 or, if the U.S. citizen parent does not meet this requirement, the U.S. citizen parent's own U.S. citizen parent has been physically present in the United States for a period or periods totaling at least 5 years at least 2 of which were after the age of 14; **and**

**NOTE:** In cases where the child's U.S. citizen parent has died in the preceding five years, and Form N-600K has been properly filed on behalf of that child by a U.S. citizen (grandparent) of the child's deceased citizen parent or by the child's U.S. citizen legal guardian, the child does NOT have to be residing in the legal and physical custody of the person as long as the person who has legal and physical custody of the child does not object to the application.

6. Is temporarily present in the United States at the time of interview, in lawful status pursuant to a lawful admission (see below for an exception to this requirement for the child of a citizen parent serving in the U.S. Armed Forces).

**NOTE:** It is the responsibility of the individual seeking a child's naturalization under section 322 of the Act to secure any visa or other document necessary for the child's lawful admission to the United States. USCIS can not assist in obtaining any necessary visa or other document.

**Children of U.S. Armed Forces Members**

- A. The entire naturalization process may be completed outside of the United States if the child is residing abroad with his or her U.S. citizen parent who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and the child is authorized to accompany and reside abroad with the service member under official military orders. Such child need not demonstrate the temporary physical presence, lawful admission, and maintenance of status requirements to be eligible for naturalization under section 322.
- B. A U.S. citizen who is, or was, serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and who seeks to have a child naturalized under section 322 may count any time spent abroad on official U.S. military orders as part of the required 5 years of physical presence in the United States or its outlying possessions as long as the child is residing abroad with that service member under official military orders at the time of filing.

**Application of section 322 to an adopted child**

A U.S. citizen's adopted child may be naturalized under section 322 only if the child satisfies the specific provision of the U.S. immigration laws relating to adopted children that applies to the child's case.

Hague Convention adoption case

If the U.S. citizen parent adopted the child under the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention, then in addition to the adoption decree, submit a copy of the approval notice for the Form I-800 and of the supporting evidence (other than the home study).

Orphan case

If the U.S. citizen parent adopted the child as an orphan under section 101(b)(1)(F) of the Act, then in addition to the adoption decree, submit a copy of the approval notice for the Form I-600 and of the supporting evidence (other than the home study).

Any other adoption case

If the U.S. citizen parent did not adopt the child under the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention or as an orphan under section 101(b)(1)(F), the child must have:

- Been adopted before the child's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday (or before the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, as specified in section 101(b)(1)(E)(ii) of the Act);
- Been in the legal custody of the adopting U.S. citizen parent for at least 2 years; and
- Resided with the adopting U.S. citizen parent for at least 2 years.

**NOTE:** The required 2 years of residing in the legal and physical custody of the adopting parent does not apply to an adopted orphan as described in section 101(b)(1)(F) or (G) of the INA.

**Who is Not Eligible to File Form N-600K?**

This form may not be filed:

1. On behalf of a child who has already acquired citizenship **automatically** under section 320 of the INA;
2. By a U.S. citizen whose only relationship to the child is a step-parent;
3. By any person other than a U.S. citizen parent of the child unless that parent has died; or
4. By any person once a child is over the age of 18.

**Who May File Form N-600K?**

**This form may be filed on behalf of an eligible foreign-born child by the following individuals:**

**U.S. Citizen Parent**

The U.S. citizen parent with legal **and** physical custody of a biological or adopted child under the age of 18 years who regularly resides outside of the United States and seeks naturalization for the child under section 322 of the INA.

**OR**

**If the qualifying U.S. citizen parent of the child has died, this form may be filed within 5 years of the parent's death by the child's U.S. citizen grandparent or U.S. citizen legal guardian.**

**U.S. Citizen Grandparent**

A U.S. citizen parent of the U.S. citizen parent (the child's grandparent).

**U.S. Citizen Legal Guardian**

A U.S. citizen legal guardian of the child who is filing this form within 5 years of the death of the child's qualifying citizen parent. The U.S. citizen legal guardian does not have to meet the parental physical presence requirements under section 322 of the INA. Although the physical presence requirements need not be met by the legal guardian, they must have been met by either the deceased U.S. citizen parent or by the U.S. citizen grandparent prior to the U.S. citizen parent's death.

**What Is the Filing Fee?**

The fee for Form N-600K is **\$460** for a biological child and **\$420** for an adopted child. All applicants must pay the fee for filing Form N-600K if:

- A. You live in Guam, then make check payable to **"Treasurer, Guam"**;
- B. You live in the U.S. Virgin Islands, then make check payable to **"Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands"**; or
- C. You live outside the United States, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, then contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate for instructions on the method of payment.

**NOTE:** Spell out "U.S. Department of Homeland Security." Do not use the initials "USDHS" or "DHS."

**Notice to Those Making Payment by Check**

USCIS will make a copy and convert your original check into an electronic funds transfer (EFT). This means USCIS will use the account information on your check to electronically debit your account for the check amount. This debit usually takes 24 hours and should show up on your regular account statement.

USCIS will not return your original check. USCIS will destroy it and keep a copy. If the EFT cannot be processed due to technical reasons, you authorize USCIS to process the copy of the check. If the EFT cannot be completed because of insufficient funds, USCIS may try the EFT up to two times.

## When Should This Form Be Filed?

In order for a child beneficiary to obtain U.S. citizenship by this application:

1. All the required evidence must be received and verified;  
**and**
2. The personal interview with the child must be completed  
**before the child reaches the age of 18 years.**

Form N-600K should be submitted **at least 90 days prior to the requested interview date**, allowing USCIS time to review the application as well as schedule the interview and send a timely appointment notice to the foreign address. USCIS will not schedule an interview date until it has determined that the application is complete. **Therefore, Form N-600K processing may be further delayed if any of the required information and evidence is missing from the application. Requests for a change in the designated local USCIS office may also delay processing.**

**NOTE:** It is advisable for the applicant and the child beneficiary to wait for the appointment notice from USCIS **before** traveling to the United States with the understanding that USCIS cannot assist the applicant in obtaining a visa(s) to enter the U.S.

## Where Should This Form Be Submitted?

### Child of a U.S. Armed Forces member only

Form may be filed either with a USCIS overseas office or directly with the Nebraska Service Center (NSC). The NSC will initially process the Form N-600K and then forward it to the appropriate USCIS field office for interview and adjudication.

The Nebraska Service Center mailing addresses is:

Nebraska Service Center  
P.O. Box 87426  
Lincoln, NE 68501-7426

For express/courier delivery to the Nebraska Service Center use:

Nebraska Service Center  
850 S Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

### All Other Applicants

Form N-600K may be filed at any USCIS field office **in the United States or its outlying possessions**, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, where the applicant intends to appear with the child for the required interview.

**NOTE:** To find the addresses of USCIS field offices located in the U.S. or overseas, use the “[Find a USCIS Office](http://www.uscis.gov)” at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

## General Instructions

### Fill Out Form N-600K

1. Type or print clearly using blue or black ink. Keep all information within the area provided. If extra space is needed to complete any item, attach a continuation sheet noting the USCIS A-Number and item number as well as date and sign each sheet.
2. Answer all questions fully and accurately. Write "N/A" if an item is not applicable. Write "None" if the answer is none.
3. Avoid highlighting, crossing out, or writing over any area of the application. If you make a mistake, print out a new page to complete.
4. If the child has a USCIS A-Number, write the A-Number on the top right hand corner of **Page 1 within the application.**

**Translations.** Any document containing a foreign language submitted to USCIS must be accompanied by a full English translation which the translator has certified as complete and accurate, as well as the translator's certification that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English.

**Copies.** Unless specifically required that an original document be filed with an application or petition, a copy may be submitted. Original documents submitted when not required may become part of the record even if the submission is not required. **Do not send an original Certificate of Citizenship or Naturalization.** USCIS may request that you present original documents at the interview.

## Required Evidence

The following is a list of documents that must be submitted with Form N-600K. **Unless specifically noted otherwise, every applicant must submit each of the documents listed below for the the child, the grandparent (if applicable), and the U.S. citizen parent through whom the applicant is claiming U.S. citizenship.**

- 1. Photographs** - You **must** submit two identical “passport-style” color photographs of the child taken within 30 days of filing this application.

The photos must be in color with full face, frontal view on a white to off-white background. Head height must 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. The head must be bare unless wearing a headdress as required by a religious order of which the child is a member. Print the child's name (and A-Number, if applicable) on the back of each photo.

**NOTE:** Any digital photograph submitted must have been taken with a camera with at least 3.5 megapixels of resolution.

- 2. Birth Certificate or Record of the Child** - Issued and certified by a civil authority in the country of birth.
- 3. Birth Certificate or Record of the U.S. Citizen Parent** - Issued and certified by a civil authority in the country of birth is required for applications filed by a U.S. citizen parent.
- 4. Marriage Certificate(s) of the U.S. citizen parent** - Issued and certified by a civil authority in the state or country of marriage.
- 5. Documents Showing the Marriage Termination (if applicable)** - Certified divorce decree, death certificate, or annulment.
- 6. Proof of U.S. Citizenship of Qualifying Parent or Grandparent** - U.S. birth certificate; Certificate of Naturalization; Certificate of Citizenship; Form FS-240, Report of Birth Abroad of United States Citizen; or a valid unexpired U.S. passport.

**NOTE:** Passport must have been issued prior to the child's birth if it is being provided as proof of U.S. citizenship. The applicant must provide additional documents including birth certificate or naturalization certificate as evidence that the parent was a U.S. citizen at the time of the child's birth if the passport was issued after the child's birth.

- 7. Legitimation Evidence** - If the child was born out of wedlock, then the applicant must submit certified evidence establishing the proper legitimation. Documents must establish legitimation according to the laws of the child's residence or domicile, if applicable. Child must have been in legal custody of parent(s) at the time of legitimation.
- 8. Legal Guardianship Evidence** - Certified evidence of legal guardianship issued by the legal authority of the guardian's residence or domicile, if applicable.
- 9. Legal and Physical Custody Evidence** - In cases of divorce, legal separation, or adoption, evidence that the qualifying U.S. citizen parent has legal custody of someone who does not object to the application.

- 10. Evidence of Lawful Admission and Maintenance of Such Lawful Status** - Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record is required at the time of interview for all children seeking citizenship under section 322 of the INA, except for eligible children of members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

- 11. Proof of Required Physical Presence in the United States** - Evidence that proves the U.S. citizen parent's (or grandparent's, if applicable) physical presence in the United States. This pertains to grandparents if the child's parent does not meet the requirement. For example:

- A. School, employment, or military records;
- B. Deeds, mortgages, or leases showing residence;
- C. U.S. Social Security Administration reports;
- D. Attestations by churches, unions, or other organizations; or
- E. Affidavits by third parties having knowledge of the residence and physical presence.

- 12. Current Status of U.S. Citizen Grandparent** - The grandparent must be a U.S. citizen, or must have been one at the time of death of the U.S. citizen parent, if the sponsoring U.S. citizen parent is using the child's grandparent physical presence in the United States to meet that requirement.

**For applications filed by the grandparent or legal guardian:**

Evidence must be submitted to prove that the grandparent was a U.S. citizen and still alive at the time of the child's U.S. citizen parent's death if the child's U.S. citizen parent has died and the grandparent's physical presence is relied upon. Evidence must also be submitted to prove that the U.S. citizen parent died within the proceeding 5 years.

- 13. Copy of Notice of Approval and Supporting Documentation (Except Home Study) for:**

**A. Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative,**

**OR**

**B. Form I-800, Petition to Classify Convention Adoptee as an Immediate Relative**

**NOTE:** All adopted children seeking naturalization under section 322 of the INA must either have had Form I-600 or Form I-800 approved **or** have complied with the 2 years of legal custody and joint residence requirement of INA 101(b)(1)(E).

- 14. Copy of Full, Final Adoption Decree** - If applicable.
- 15. Evidence of All Legal Name Changes.**

## What if a document is not available?

The applicant must explain the reason(s) why a required document(s) is unavailable and submit secondary evidence to establish eligibility. Secondary evidence must overcome the unavailability of the required documents. USCIS may request an original written statement from the appropriate government or other legal authority to support the claim that the documents are unavailable.

The following types of **secondary evidence** may be submitted for consideration.

- 1. Baptismal Certificate** - Certificate under the church seal where the baptism occurred, showing:
  - A. The date and place of the child's birth;
  - B. Baptism date; and
  - C. Godparent(s) name(s), if known.
- 2. School Record** - Letter from school authorities pertaining to, the school attended (preferably the first school), showing:
  - A. Admission date to the school;
  - B. Child's birth date or age at time;
  - C. Child's birth place; and
  - D. The name(s) and place(s) of birth parents, if shown in the school records.
- 3. Census Records** - State or Federal census records showing:
  - A. Person's name;
  - B. Birth place; and
  - C. Date of birth or age.
- 4. Affidavits** - If other types of secondary evidence are **not available**, written statements sworn to (or affirmed) by 2 persons who have personal knowledge of the claimed event. Affidavits must overcome the unavailability of both required documents and secondary evidence. Examples include the following:
  - A. Birth date and place of a birth;
  - B. Marriage; or
  - C. Death

The persons making these statements are not required to be U.S. citizens and may be relatives. Each affidavit must contain the following information about the person making the affidavit:

- A. Full legal name;
- B. Address;
- C. Birth date and place;
- D. Relationship to the applicant; and
- E. Detailed information about the event to include how they came to know about its occurrence.

**NOTE: USCIS MAY REQUIRE VERIFICATION OF ANY OR ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION.**

## Step-By-Step Instructions

This form is divided into 11 parts.

### General Items

**Current Legal Name** - Provide the person's legal name. This should be the name on the person's birth certificate, unless it has been changed by legal action such as marriage, adoption, or court order.

**U.S. Social Security Number** - Provide the person's U.S. Social Security Number or write "N/A" if there is none.

**Date of Birth** - Use eight numbers to show the date of birth. For example, May 1, 1992, must be written as "05/01/1992."

**Country of Birth** - Provide the name of the person's birth country as it was at the time of birth regardless of whether the country's name has since changed or no longer exists.

**Home Address** - Provide the address where the person currently lives. **Do not** provide a post office (P.O.) box number here.

**Telephone Numbers and E-mail address** - Provide the telephone numbers and e-mail address where USCIS may contact you. If you are hearing impaired and use a TTY telephone connection, indicate this by writing "(TTY)" after the telephone number.

**U.S. Citizenship** - Provide all the requested information regarding how the person became a U.S. citizen.

**Loss of U.S. Citizenship** - Provide information in an attachment if the person ever lost U.S. citizenship regardless of whether it has since been regained.

### Other Relevant Items By Part

#### Part 1. Information About the Child

- B. Name Exactly as It Appears on Child's Permanent Resident Card** - Provide the child's name exactly as it appears on the card even if it is misspelled.
- C. Other Names Used Since Birth** - Provide any other name(s) the child has used since birth. Attach a separate sheet of paper if more space is needed.
- G. Country of Citizenship/Nationality** - Provide the name of the country of the child's citizenship/nationality.

If the country no longer exists or the child is stateless, provide the country where the child was last a citizen or national.

If the child is a citizen or national of more than one country, provide the foreign country name that issued the child's latest passport.

- H. Gender** - Indicate whether male or female.
- I. Height** - Provide the child's height in feet and inches.
- K. Mailing Address** - If the mailing address is the same as the home address, write "same." Provide "Care Of" information, if applicable.
- L. Current Marital Status** - Indicate the child's current marital status.
- M. Information About the Child's Entry Into the United States and Current Immigration Status** -

**Do not complete this part. The applicant will be asked to complete this part at the interview.**

- N. Previous Application for Citizenship, Certificate of Citizenship, or U.S. Passport** - Provide information in an attachment if any such application has been previously filed on behalf of the child.
- O. Information on Adoption** - Provide the necessary information requested.
- P. Marital Status of the Child's 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 or at the adoption time. If the child was born out-of-wedlock, indicate "No" even if the parents subsequently married.

## **Part 2. Information About the Child's Eligibility**

Check the box that indicates why the child is eligible for citizenship under section 322 of the INA.

- Box A:** Check this box if you are a U.S. citizen parent applying for citizenship on behalf of your eligible biological child.
- Box B:** Check this box if you are a U.S. citizen parent applying for citizenship on behalf of your eligible adopted child.
- Box C:** Check this box if you are the U.S. citizen parent of the child's deceased U.S. citizen parent applying for your eligible grandchild. Also, check this box if you are the U.S. citizen legal guardian of such a child.

## **Part 3. Information About the Child's U.S. Citizen Biological or Adoptive Parent**

### **I. Marital History**

- 1.** Write the number of times the qualifying U.S. citizen parent was married, including annulled marriages. Count each time as separate if there was more than one marriage to the same spouse.

- 2.** If now married, provide information about the qualifying U.S. citizen parent's current spouse. Check the appropriate box to indicate immigration status.
- 3.** Indicate whether qualifying U.S. citizen parent's current spouse is also the child's biological or adoptive parent. If "No," USCIS may request information about the sponsoring U.S. citizen parent's previous spouse(s).

## **Part 4. Information About the Qualifying U.S. Citizen Grandparent**

Complete this section only if the U.S. citizen parent **has not** been physically present in the United States for 5 years, 2 years of which were after the age of 14 years, and the eligible applicant is therefore relying on the physical presence in the United States of the U.S citizen father or mother of the U.S citizen parent (the child's grandparent) to obtain citizenship for the adopted or biological child.

**NOTE:** The applicant must provide information about the U.S. citizen parent (the child's grandparent) of the U.S. citizen father or mother in the sections noted.

## **Part 5. Physical Presence in the United States**

**Physical Presence** - Provide all the dates when the child's biological or adoptive U.S. citizen father or mother, or grandparent, was in United States. **Include all dates from the person's birth up until date of adjudication.**

**NOTE:** A U.S. citizen parent who is, or was, a member of the U.S. Armed Forces may count any time the U.S. citizen parent resided abroad on official military orders towards the physical presence requirements under section 322(a)(2), as long as the child was residing abroad with the U.S. citizen parent per official military orders at the time of filing.

## **Part 6. Information About the Child's Legal Guardian**

Complete this part **only** for applications filed by a legal guardian in lieu of a deceased U.S. citizen parent.

## **Part 7. Preferred Date and Location for Interview**

Provide your preferences regarding when and where you would like to be interviewed. USCIS will consider your preferences.

- A. USCIS office (or City, State) for your interview**  
If a specific USCIS office is unknown, provide the preferred city and state for your interview; **and**

- B. Date**  
Your preferred interview date should be at least 90 days after you file this application.

## Part 8. Applicant's Signature

The applicant must sign and date the application. If the applicant does not sign the application, the application will be returned.

## Part 9. Signature of Person Preparing This Form, If Other Than Applicant

If the applicant did not fill out Form N-600K, the preparer must also sign, date, and give his or her address, as well as indicate his or her business or organization, if applicable.

## Part 10. Affidavit

**Do not complete this part. The applicant will be asked to complete this part at the interview.**

## Part 11. Officer Report and Recommendation

**Do not complete this part as it is for USCIS use only.**

### Penalties

If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with Form N-600K, USCIS will deny your application 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

USCIS will use the information and evidence requested on Form N-600K to determine your eligibility for the requested immigration benefit. USCIS may provide information from your application to other government agencies. Our legal right to ask for this information can be found in the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. Failure to provide this information, and any requested evidence, may delay a final decision or result in denial of your Form N-600K.

### USCIS Forms and Information

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 Web site at **[www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)**.

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 Web site. 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.

### 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 and 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 Products Division, 111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., 3rd Floor, Suite 3008, Washington, DC 20529-2210. OMB No. 1615-0087. **Do not mail your application to this address.**