

Medi-Cal Requires Proof of Citizenship and Identity for Children Who Are U.S. Citizens or Nationals

A new law says *most* U.S. citizens or nationals applying for or receiving Medi-Cal must show proof of citizenship *and* proof of identity. This law affects children, too. Read below to learn more.

If your child is not a U.S. citizen or national, this law does not apply to the child.

The new law may affect your child's Medi-Cal benefits.

If your child has Medi-Cal now, benefits will continue as long as the child meets all other eligibility requirements, and you make a reasonable effort to provide the proof.

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

Some children do not have to provide proof of citizenship and identity, including:

- Anyone with:
 - Supplement Security Income (SSI)
 - Medicare
 - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
 - Social Security Disability Retirement and Survivors Insurance (RSI – Title II) based on their own disability
- Anyone under 21 asking for Minor Consent Services
- Babies born to women who are on Medi-Cal
- Children in Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, or Kin-GAP
- Babies in the Abandoned Baby Program
- CalWORKs Beneficiaries

What if my child is NOT a U.S. citizen?

If your child is not a U.S. citizen or national, you only need to provide the same documents that were required before. Nothing has changed.

What if my child is a U.S. national?

U.S. nationals must provide proof of citizenship and identity. U.S. nationals include people born in American Samoa (including Swains Island) and certain people from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

You will have time to provide your child's proof of citizenship and identity.

If you do not have proof when you apply, submit your application and provide the proof as soon as you can. If you do not have proof at the time of your annual redetermination, and you need more time, let your eligibility worker know.

How can my child get proof of citizenship?

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

Contact the county to see if they have found a California birth record match for your child before you pay for a birth certificate.

Fill out the *Request for California Birth Record* form. 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.

Ask your county social services office about getting proof if your child was not born in California.

Is proof of identity still required?

If your child is under 16 and you have filled out and signed the Medi-Cal application or the Healthy Families/Medi-Cal joint application with your child's date and place of birth, you do not need to provide proof of identity. (This signed application is proof of your child's identity.)

If your child is 16 or over, you must provide proof of citizenship **and** identity for your child. The best way is to provide **one** of these documents:

- U.S. Passport issued without limitation (expired ones are acceptable)
- Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-5570)
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (N-560 or N-561)

If you do not have one of these documents, you must provide **two** documents:

- **One** citizenship document (such as a U.S. birth certificate), *AND*
- **One** identity document (such as a school identification with a photograph)

If your child is under 18 but does not have a school ID card or driver license, the parent, guardian, or caretaker relative can sign an Affidavit of the child's identity.

You **must** submit the *original* documents, or copies certified by the issuing agency. See back for a list of acceptable documents.

What if I paid for medical or dental care for my child while getting the citizenship and identity documents?

Medi-Cal may pay for your bills. Call Beneficiary Services at the Department of Health Care Services for answers to your questions:
(916) 403-2007.

Acceptable Citizenship and Identity Documents

The easiest way for U.S. citizens or nationals to prove citizenship and identity is with **one** of these documents:

- U.S. Passport issued without limitation (expired ones are acceptable)
- 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 citizenship document listed below:

- ❖ 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 Marianas Card (*I-873*)
- ❖ Final adoption decree showing a U.S. place of birth
- ❖ Proof of adoption of a child born outside U.S. and in the legal/physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent (IR-3 or IR-4)
- ❖ Proof of U.S. civil service employment before June 1, 1976
- ❖ U.S. military service record showing a U.S. place of birth
- ❖ U.S. hospital record made at the time of birth * †
- ❖ Life, health, or other insurance record * †
- ❖ Religious record recorded in the U.S. within 3 months of birth showing U.S. place of birth and birth date or age
- ❖ Early school record showing a U.S. place of birth, date of admission, birth date, names and places of birth of parents
- ❖ Federal or State census record that shows the applicant's age and U.S. citizenship or place of birth
- ❖ Seneca Indian tribal census record * †
- ❖ Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Indians tribal census record * †
- ❖ U.S. State Vital Statistics birth registration notification * †
- ❖ A delayed U.S. public birth record that was recorded more than 5 years after the person's birth * †
- ❖ Statement signed by doctor or midwife present at the birth * †
- ❖ Roll of Alaska Natives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs * †
- ❖ Admission papers from a nursing or skilled care facility, or other institution that shows a U.S. place of birth *
- ❖ Medical record (not an immunization record) * †

** Must be dated at least 5 years before your 1st Medi-Cal application and show a U.S. place of birth.*

† For children under 16, must be created near the time of birth.

You must provide a document as high up on the list as you can.

If you cannot provide any of these citizenship documents...

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.

– **AND** –

One identity document listed below:

- ❖ 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 I.D. card or draft record
- ❖ Federal, state or local government I.D. card with same identifying information as a driver's license
- ❖ U.S. 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
- ❖ Three or more confirming documents, such as employee ID cards, high school or college diplomas, marriage licenses, divorce decrees, and property deeds/titles
- ❖ Clinic, doctor, or hospital records for a child under 16
- ❖ School, nursery school, or daycare records, including report cards, for a child under 16. The county will verify with the school.
- ❖ For people with disabilities who live in a residential care facility, an Affidavit signed by the facility's director or administrator

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, guardian, or caretaker relative with date and place of birth
- ❖ 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, guardian, or caretaker relative.

For a **child under 18**, an Affidavit of the child's identity signed by the child's parent, guardian, or caretaker relative may be used if school ID cards or driver licenses are not available.

Note: Expired identity documents are acceptable proof of identity.