

Changes in Medi-Cal Citizenship and Identity Requirements for U.S. Citizens and Nationals

A new law says *most* Medi-Cal applicants and beneficiaries who are U.S. citizens or nationals must show proof of citizenship *and* proof of identity. Read below to learn how this law may apply to you or your family.

If you are not a U.S. citizen or national, this law does not apply to you.

Medi-Cal Applicants –

You must provide proof of citizenship and identity to be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal. If you do not have the proof now, you should still apply and provide the proof later.

If you cannot provide the 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 the proof within one year of your application, your Medi-Cal benefits will be changed from limited to full-scope, starting from the date of application, including any retroactive period.

Important! Full-scope Medi-Cal benefits will not begin until you provide proof of citizenship *and* proof of identity.

Medi-Cal Beneficiaries –

Complete and return your *Annual Redetermination* form by the deadline. If you do not have proof of citizenship and identity now, you can provide it later. Tell your eligibility worker you are trying to get the proof. You will be given a reasonable amount of time to provide it.

If you cannot provide your proof, but you continue to meet all eligibility requirements, your full-scope Medi-Cal benefits will be changed to limited benefits. This means you will only be able to get emergency, pregnancy, and long-term care services.

If you provide the proof within one year of your redetermination month, your Medi-Cal benefits will be changed to full-scope starting from the month that your limited benefits began.

Important! Full-scope Medi-Cal benefits will continue as long as you meet all eligibility requirements *and* make a reasonable effort to provide proof of citizenship and identity.

U.S. Nationals –

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

Not a U.S. citizen –

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

What if you have paid for medical or dental care while getting your proof of 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.