

POLICY MANUAL UPDATE

RESIDENCE RELATED TO CITIZENSHIP

How does this update affect children of U.S. government employees and members of the armed forces who are employed or stationed outside of the United States?

Who This Policy Update Does Not Affect



This policy does not affect children born outside the United States who were citizens at birth or who have already acquired citizenship, including children who:

Were born to two U.S. citizen parents, at least one of whom has had a residence in the United States or one of its outlying possessions before the child's birth;

Were born to married parents, one of whom is a U.S. citizen and one a foreign national, if the U.S. citizen parent was physically present in the U.S. or one of its outlying possessions for at least five years, at least two of which were after they turned 14 years old;

Were born to unmarried parents, one of whom is a U.S. citizen and one a foreign national, if the U.S. citizen parent meets the requirements listed in INA 309;

Are otherwise eligible to receive a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) or a Certificate of Citizenship documenting U.S. citizenship acquired at birth; or

Are residing in the United States in the legal and physical custody of their U.S. citizen parent after being lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence.

Who this Policy Affects

This policy may affect children residing outside the United States who were born outside the United States to:



Non-U.S. citizen parents and adopted by a U.S. citizen U.S. government employee or U.S. service member after their birth;

Non-U.S. citizen parents, such as a lawful permanent resident U.S. government employee or U.S. service member, who naturalized only after the child's birth; or

Two U.S. citizen government employee or U.S. service member parents who do not meet the residence or physical presence requirements to transmit citizenship to their child at birth (or one non-U.S. citizen parent and one U.S. citizen parent who does not meet these requirements).



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Please see the USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 12, Citizenship and Naturalization, Part H, Children of U.S. Citizens, for specific requirements on acquiring citizenship.

For more information, you can connect with the USCIS Contact Center (uscis.gov/contactcenter) or send us a secure message through your USCIS online account (myaccount.uscis.gov).