

90-200.2. CITIZENSHIP

- A. General** This section provides information on the citizenship requirements for the GR Program.
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- B. Policy** United States (U.S.) citizenship is not a condition of eligibility for GR.
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- C. Citizenship** An applicant establishes citizenship through birth in the U.S. or U.S. Territories.
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- D. Birth in the U.S.** All people born in the U.S. are, with rare exception, citizens. Citizenship through native birth is established by an applicant's GR Statement of Facts.
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- E. Birth in U.S. Territories** People born in the following U.S. territories are citizens entitled to enter the U.S. for permanent residence at any time without going through immigration procedures:
- American Samoa
 - Guam
 - Northern Mariana Islands
 - Puerto Rico
 - Swains Island
 - Virgin Islands
 - Canal Zone.
- See [Appendix A](#) for information on the former Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. Citizenship through U.S. territorial birth is established by an applicant's statement on the GR Statement of Facts.
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- F. Birth by U.S. Citizen Parents Stationed Abroad** An applicant born of U.S. citizen parents while stationed abroad is a U.S. citizen. Citizenship is established through the certificate issued by the military hospital and the applicant's statement on the GR Statement of Facts.
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G. Naturalized Citizens

Presentation of a certificate of citizenship or naturalization from the U.S. Department of Justice, or CIS, or other valid CIS documentation will establish citizenship.

Certain people born abroad of U.S. citizen parent(s), or through marriage to a U.S. citizen, can acquire citizenship. For a person who, at the time of birth or later, becomes a citizen of the U.S. through his/her parent(s), there is a special provision of law under which a certificate of citizenship may be issued by the CIS.

Citizenship may also be acquired by naturalization through court proceedings. Any alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence and at least 18 years of age, including the spouse of a U.S. citizen, may become a naturalized citizen.

CIS issues certificates of naturalization in these instances. Presentation of either certificate is acceptable verification.

H. Form I-197

People who have become U.S. citizens other than by birth, should have "Resident Citizen Identification Card," Form I-197 from the CIS. This identification card establishes U.S. citizenship.

NOTE: It is legal to image certificates of citizenship or naturalization, CIS Form I-197 and U.S. passports. Images of these documents will be saved in the case folder.

I. Foreign Birth Certificates

A foreign birth certificate that has been registered with the American Consulate in the foreign country indicates U.S. citizenship if the document has a written statement to this effect, and is signed by an officer of the Consulate. The document should also have the stamp of the Consulate.

People holding these registered birth certificates are usually issued a U.S. passport.

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**Foreign Birth
Certificates**
(continued)

A foreign birth certificate stamped by the CIS at the time a child of U.S. parents first enters the country is not, in itself, proof of citizenship or alien status, although the child was legally admitted to this country. Obtaining citizenship or permanent residence is an entirely separate CIS procedure, which may or may not be granted.
