Documentation Needed as Proof of US Citizenship

Several documents can be used to prove US citizenship. ***Any of these documents may be used to provide confirmation of US citizenship.*** We must have a copy of the documentation prior to continuing with the application evaluation since we must verify that the applicant is in fact a US citizen. If the person is not a US citizen, immigrant permanent resident, or applicant for permanent residency, they must then complete the international application instead so that their application checklist is correct.

The documents are listed below ***in no particular order***. Explanations of each document plus samples are included on the following pages:

1. Certificate of Naturalization (DHS Form N-550 or N-570)

2. Certificate of Citizenship (DHS Form N-560 or N-561)

3. Certification of Foreign Birth (FS-545, DS-1350, or FS-240)

4. United States Citizenship Identification Card (I-197) or prior version I-179

5. U.S. Passport

6. Northern Mariana Card (I-873)

7. A U.S. public birth certificate showing birth in:

    a. American Samoa;
    b. Swain's Island;
    c. *Puerto Rico (if born on or after January 13, 1941);
    d. *Virgin Islands of the U.S. (on or after January 17, 1917);
    e. *Northern Mariana Islands (after November 4, 1986 (NMI local time)); or
    f. Guam (on or after April 10, 1899)

Documentation Needed as Proof of US Citizenship

Certificate of Naturalization (DHS Form N-550 or N-570) – Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issues for naturalization.

Note: This form can ONLY be copied in black and white. Newly sworn-in citizens are told this on the day that they become citizens. Color copies can be construed as an attempt to forge the form for illegal purposes.

OLD form (N-550)



NEW form (N-570)



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. S0000000

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization:

Date of birth: **JANUARY 99, 0000**

Sex: **MALE**

Height: **5** *feet* **9** *inches*

Marital status: **MARRIED**

Country of former nationality:

FORMER NATIONALITY COUNTRY

USCIS Registration No. **A999999999999999**

I certify that the description given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.

New Citizen Signature Here

(Complete and true signature of holder)

Be it known that, pursuant to an application filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security

at: **USCIS FIELD OFFICE CITY NAME, STATE NAME**

The Secretary having found that:

NEW CITIZEN NAME – EPSON B-510DN – NEW ASC PHOTO

residing at:

Mytown, State

having complied in all respects with all of the applicable provisions of the naturalization laws of the United States, being entitled to be admitted as a citizen of the United States, and having taken the oath of allegiance at a ceremony conducted by

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

at: **CEREMONY CITY, STATE** *on:* **JULY 99, 0000**

such person is admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

**** TEST CERTIFICATE ****

U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FORM N-550 (REV. 08/10)

Documentation Needed as Proof of US Citizenship

Certificate of Citizenship (DHS Form N-560 or N-561) – Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issues certificates of citizenship to individuals who derive citizenship through a parent.

Note: This form can ONLY be copied in black and white. Color copies can be construed as an attempt to forge the form for illegal purposes.



Certification of Foreign Birth (FS-545, DS-1350, or FS-240) – The Department of State consular office prepares and issues this document. A Consular Report of Birth can be prepared only at an American consular office overseas while the child is under the age of 18. Children born outside the U.S. to U.S. military personnel usually have one of these.

There are three foreign birth documents that U.S. citizens may use as proof of citizenship:

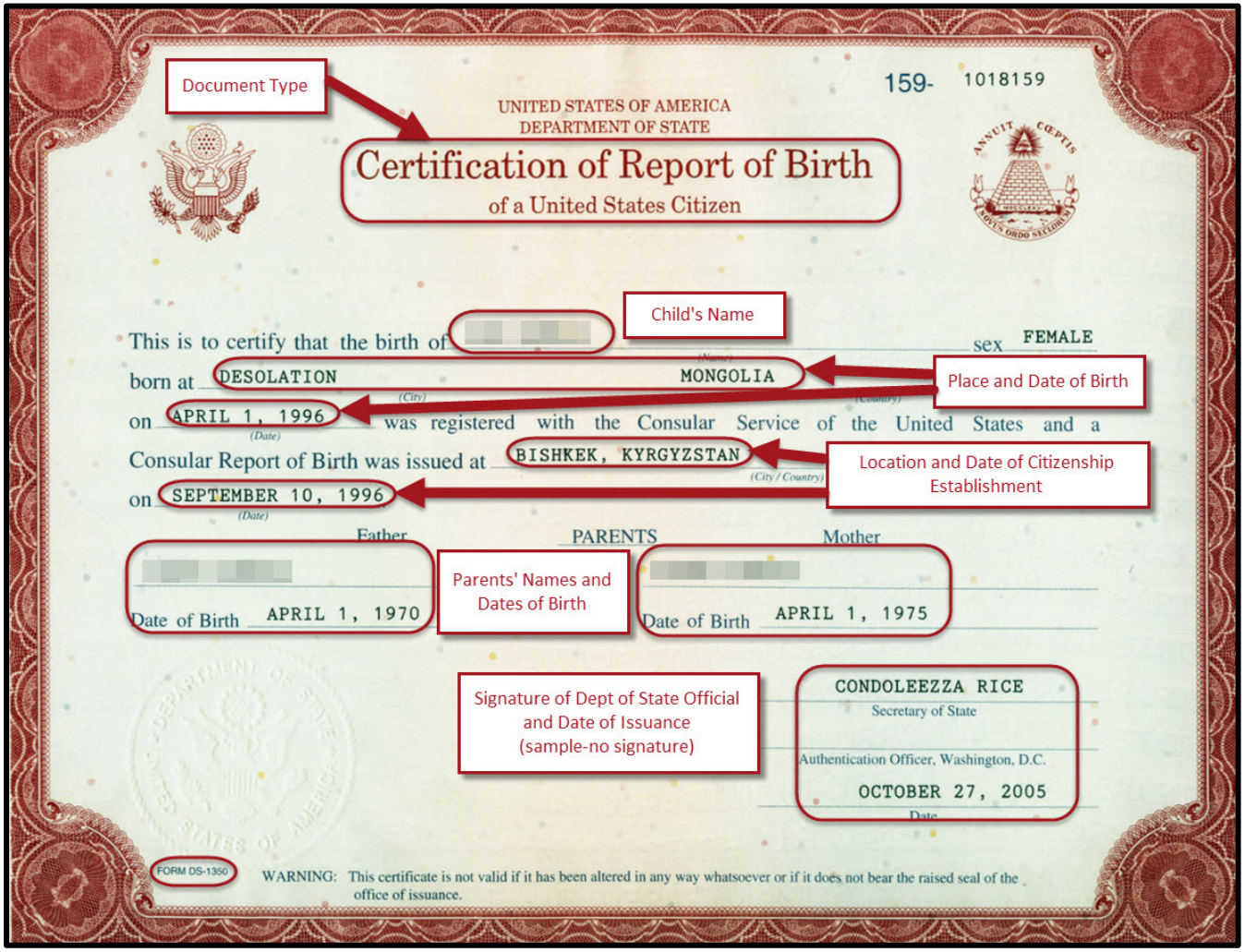
1. FS-545 Certification of Birth Abroad – issued if you were born before November 1, 1990.
2. DS-1350 Certification of Report of Birth – issued if you were born between November 1, 1990, and December 31, 2010.
3. FS-240 Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America – issued if you were born after January 1, 2011.

DS Form FS-545



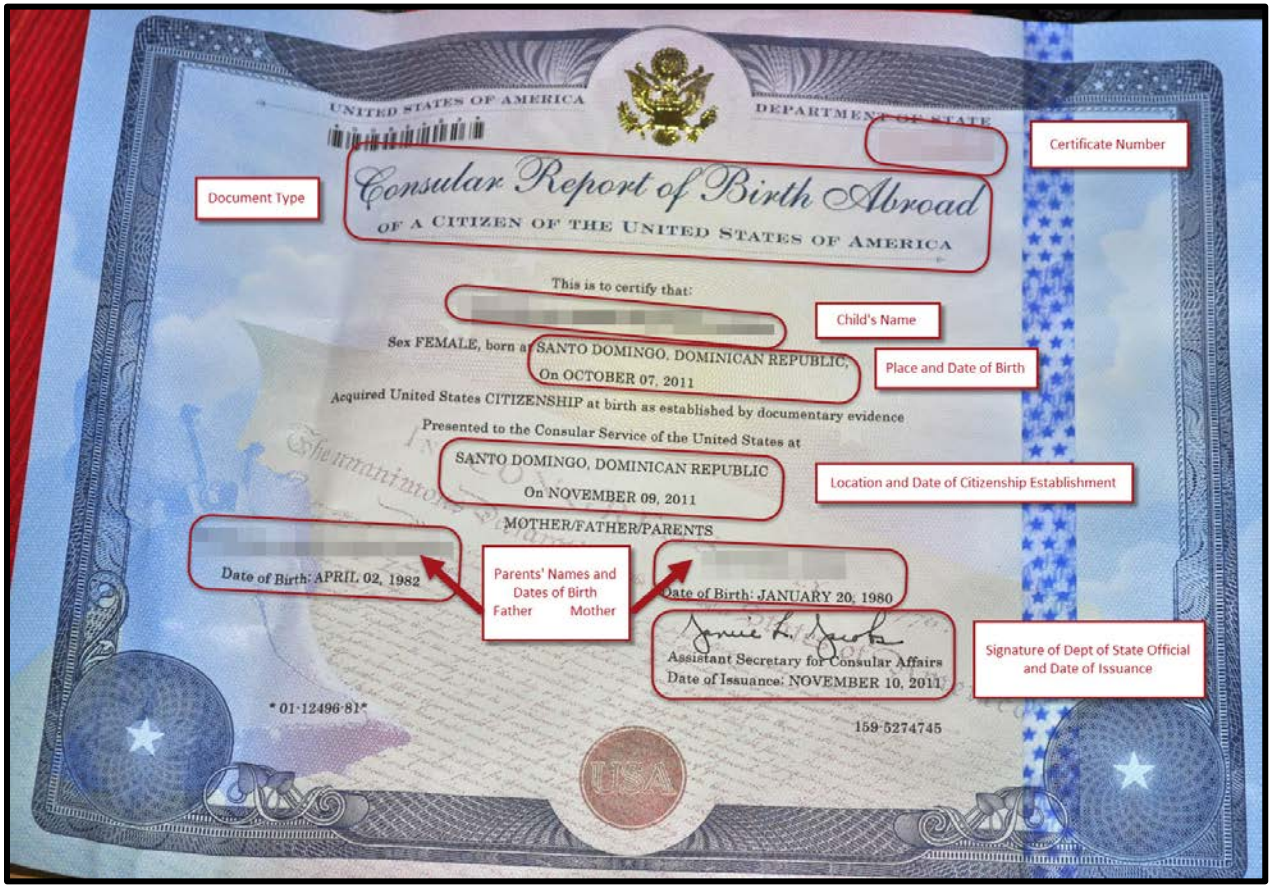
Documentation Needed as Proof of US Citizenship

DS Form DS-1350



Documentation Needed as Proof of US Citizenship

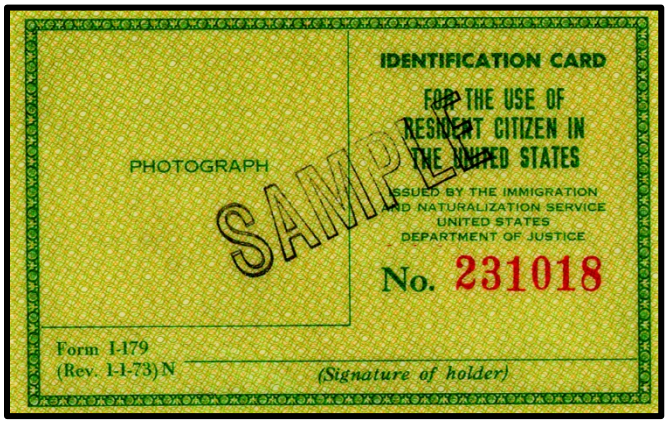
DS Form FS-240



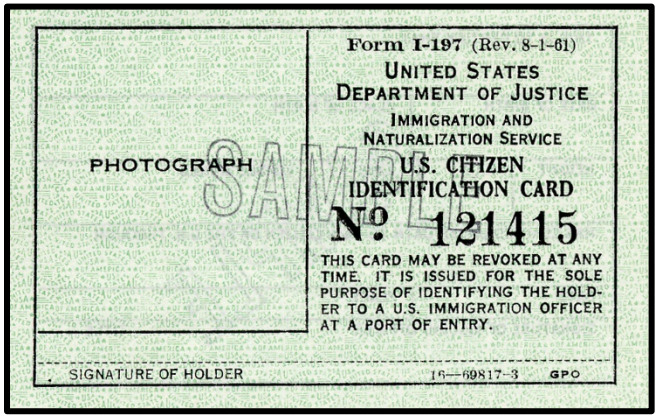
United States Citizenship Identification Card (I-197) or prior version I-179 *(No longer issued, however, still acceptable documentation)*

The former Immigration and Nationality Services (INS) issued the I-179 from 1960 until 1973. It revised the form and renumbered it as Form I-197. INS issued the I-197 from 1973 until April 7, 1983. INS issued Form I-179 and I-197 to naturalized U.S. citizens living near the Canadian or Mexican border who needed it for frequent border crossings. Although neither form is currently issued, either form that was previously issued is still valid.

I-179



I-197



United States Passport – The Department of State issues this document. A U.S. passport does not have to be currently valid to be accepted as evidence of U.S. citizenship. ***OTHER FORMS OF PROOF ARE PREFERRED.***

Note: Spouses and children were sometimes included on one passport through 1980. U.S. passports issued after 1980 show only one person. Consequently, the citizenship and identity of the included person can be established when one of these passports is presented.



Other Documents

Northern Mariana Card (I-873) *(No longer issued, however, still acceptable documentation)* – The former INS issued the I-873 to a collectively naturalized citizen of the U.S. who was born in the Northern Mariana Islands before November 4, 1986. The card is no longer issued, but those previously issued are still valid.

A U.S. public birth certificate showing birth in:

- American Samoa;
- Swain's Island;
- *Puerto Rico *(if born on or after January 13, 1941)*;
- *Virgin Islands of the U.S. *(on or after January 17, 1917)*;
- *Northern Mariana Islands *(after November 4, 1986 (NMI local time))*; or
- Guam *(on or after April 10, 1899)*

The birth record document may be issued by the State, Commonwealth, territory or local jurisdiction. It must have been issued before the person was five years of age.

> *Note: If the document shows the individual was born in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the U.S., or the Northern Mariana Islands before these areas became part of the United States, the individual may be a collectively naturalized citizen. Collective naturalization occurred on certain dates listed for each of the territories.* **** See additional requirements for Collective Naturalization.***

Collective Naturalization

Evidence that establishes U.S. citizenship for collectively naturalized individuals:

Territory	Explanation
*Puerto Rico	Evidence of birth in Puerto Rico on or after April 11, 1899 and the applicant's statement that he or she was residing in the U.S. possession or Puerto Rico on January 13, 1941; or Evidence that the applicant/recipient was a Puerto Rican citizen and the applicant's/recipient's statement that he or she was residing in Puerto Rico on March 1, 1917 and that he or she did not take an oath of allegiance to Spain.
*U.S. Virgin Islands	Evidence of birth in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the applicant/recipient's statement of residence in the U.S., a U.S. possession or the U.S. Virgin Islands on February 25, 1927; The applicant/recipient's statement indicating resident in the U.S. Virgin Islands as a Danish citizen on January 17, 1917 citizen and residence in the U.S., a U.S. possession or the U.S. Virgin Islands on February 25, 1927, and that he or she did not make a declaration to maintain Danish citizenship; or Evidence of birth in the U.S. Virgin Islands and the applicant/recipient's statement indicating residence in the U.S., a U.S. (possession or territory or the Canal Zone on June 28, 1932).
*Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) (formerly part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Island (TTPI))	Evidence of birth in the NMI, TTPI citizenship and residence in the NMI, the U.S., or a U.S. territory or possession on November 3, 1986 (NMI local time) and the applicant/recipient's statement that he or she did owe allegiance to a foreign state on November 4, 1986 (NMI local time); Evidence of TTPI citizenship, continuous residence in the NMI since before November 3, 1981 (NMI local time), voter registration prior to January 1, 1975 and the applicant/recipient's statement that he or she did not owe allegiance to a foreign state on November 4, 1986 (NMI local time); or Evidence of continuous domicile in the NMI since before January 1, 1974 and the applicant/recipient's statement that he or she did not owe allegiance to a foreign state on November 4, 1986 (NMI local time). *NOTE: If a person entered the NMI as a nonimmigrant and lived in the NMI since January 1, 1974, this does not constitute continuous domicile and the individual is not a U.S. citizen.*