

Thank you for joining us today.

Please ensure you call into the conference call number at 800-593-0693 or 415-228-4971 if your outside the U.S.

The pass code is Adoption.

We will begin shortly. Thank you.



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Bringing Your Internationally Adopted Child to the United States

There are three similar but distinct paths to bring your adopted child to the United States:

- Hague Process
- Non-Hague Process
- Immediate Relative Process



Your Child's Immigrant Visa

- Immigrant Visa Classifications Adopted Children May Receive
 - IR-3/IH-3 visa –
 - Orphan adopted abroad and the adoption is full and final
 - Child will be mailed a Certificate of Citizenship after admission to the U.S.
 - Exception: If the child lives overseas rather than the U.S., he or she will be issued a green card rather than a Certificate of Citizenship



Your Child's Immigrant Visa (cont'd)

- Adopted Children May Receive

- IR-4/IH-4 visa –

IF....

- The child is coming to U.S. to be adopted, or
 - Either the petitioner and/or spouse did not see the child during the adoption proceedings

THEN....

- Child will receive a permanent resident card (green card) after admission to the U.S.
 - Child does not automatically receive a Certificate of Citizenship



Your Child's Immigrant Visa (cont'd)

- Adopted Children May Receive
 - IR-2 visa-
 - IR-2 visa is issued to your child if you have a full and final adoption and he/she has been under your legal custodianship and living with you for a minimum of two years
 - This process requires the filing of an I-130 petition as opposed to an I-600 or I-800

**If you are adopting from a Hague Convention country, certain restrictions apply that may prevent your child from immigrating to the United States using this process. Please fully research the adoption laws of the country you hope to adopt from before beginning the process



With Your Child at the United States Port of Entry

- Upon Arrival in the United States
 - You will give two immigration documents to the CBP Officer
 1. Immigrant Visa
 2. Sealed Immigrant Data Summary Packet – This packet must remain sealed
 - Immigrant Data Summary Packet will be forward to USCIS to be included in the child’s official records
 - The officer will stamp the visa and return the passport to you
 - Your child is “admitted” to the U.S. when your child leaves the inspection facility.
 - The passport with the stamped visa is the proof of your child’s lawful admission to the U.S. until either the permanent resident card or the Certificate of Citizenship arrives in the mail



What is my Child's Immigrant Visa Classification

- Your child's immigrant visa classification is printed on both the immigrant visa in his/her passport and the Data Summary cover sheet
 - On the immigrant visa, find the visa classification on the right side, under "IV Category" (Ex. IR3, IH3, etc)
 - On the cover sheet, find the classification next to "Issue Visa Classification"



What is my Child's A-Number

- Your child's A-Number is printed on both the immigrant visa in his/her passport or other travel document and the Immigrant Data Summary cover sheet
 - On the immigrant visa, it can be found on the right side, under "Registration Number"
 - On the cover sheet, it can be found next to "A-number"



After Your Child Enters the U.S.

- All children issued IR-3/IH-3, IR-4/IH-4 and IR-2 children are admitted to the United States as permanent resident aliens
- Depending on your child's visa classification, USCIS will issue a permanent resident card (green card) or a Certificate of Citizenship
- A child who immigrates to the U.S. as the adopted child of a U.S. citizen automatically becomes a U.S. citizen if:
 - the adoption is full and final before the child's 18th birthday
 - the child is admitted as a permanent resident before his/her 18th birthday
 - the child "is residing" in the U.S. in the citizen parent's legal and physical custody



IR-3/IH-3 Children

- Generally, USCIS can readily verify whether a child admitted to the U.S. with an IR-3/IH-3 visa met the requirements for citizenship at the time of admission. For this reason,
 - Green Card is not issued
 - Certificate of Citizenship is issued
- However, there are five exceptions:
 - Your child is between 14 and 18 when he or she enters the U.S.
 - Your child is 18 or older he or she enters the U.S.
 - Your child has not established residency and is therefore not a U.S. Citizen
 - Your child entered the U.S. before January 1, 2004
 - The IR-3/IH-3 visa was issued in error



IR-4/IH-4 Children

- If your child was admitted to the U.S. on an IR-4/IH-4 visa, a permanent resident card (green card) will be issued.
 - Once final steps are taken in the U.S. to complete the adoption process, file Form N-600, *Application for Certificate of Citizenship*
 - Upon adjudication of Form N-600, USCIS will issue a Certificate of Citizenship if your child meets the requirements for automatic citizenship
 - If your child is over 14 years old, the child will take the oath of allegiance before obtaining the certificate
- ❖ Refer to the USCIS website for forms and filing instructions



IR-2 Children

- If your child was admitted to the U.S. on an IR-2 visa
 - Permanent resident card (green card) issued
 - If your child was admitted to the U.S. with an IR-2 visa, and
 - the requirements for acquiring citizenship have been met
 - File a Form N-600 to obtain a Certificate of Citizenship.
 - USCIS will issue a Certificate of Citizenship if your child meets the requirements for automatic citizenship
 - if your child is over 14 years old, the child will take the oath of allegiance before obtaining the certificate
- ❖ Refer to the USCIS website for forms and filing instructions



Certificate of Citizenship for Your Internationally Adopted Child

- If your child was admitted with an IR-3/IH-3 visa but has not yet received his/her Certificate of Citizenship and it has been more than 50 days since admission, please contact:

U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Attn: CCA Unit
130 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

or

Child-Citizenship-Act@dhs.gov

- The visas of sibling groups who entered together may have been separated during the certificate preparation process.
- Each child's certificate will be mailed separately.



U.S. Citizenship
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National Benefits Center

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Child's Name Does Not Match Certificate of Citizenship

- If your child's name is legally changed after his/her entry into the U.S., you may file Form N-565, *Application for Replacement of Naturalization/Citizenship Document*.
 - Be sure to include the proper fee and evidence of your child's legal name. The Form N-565 can be found at the website www.uscis.gov
- ❖ Refer to the USCIS website for forms and filing instructions



Child's Name/Date of Birth on Certificate of Citizenship is Incorrect or Contains Misspellings

- The name/date of birth on your child's certificate may not agree with how you want it to appear
- Information on the Certificate of Citizenship is the same as the information on your child's legal documents in the Immigrant Data Summary issued by the American Consulate
 - USCIS can not legally change your child's name; that must be done through court proceedings
 - USCIS cannot change its official records concerning your child's date of birth either:
 - the law of your State of residence may permit you to obtain an amended birth record or other evidence of a different date of birth.
 - You may use that State document, to the extent permitted by State Law, to prove your child's legal age



Child's Name/Date of Birth on Certificate of Citizenship is Incorrect or Contains Misspellings (cont'd)

- If the U.S. Embassy, Consulate or USCIS made an error, it will be corrected w/o fee
 - Please file a Form N-565, with a written explanation of the error, mail the original Certificate of Citizenship and 2 new photos to:
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Attn: CCA Unit
130 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202
- However, if the information provided during the Form I-600 adjudication and visa issuance shows the child's legal name to be the same as on the Certificate of Citizenship, another certificate may not be issued



We Lost My Child's Certificate of Citizenship

- If your child's certificate is lost or destroyed you may file Form N-565, *Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document*, with fee
 - Be sure to include the proper fee and evidence of your child's legal name.
 - Refer to the USCIS website for forms and filing instructions



Related Topics of Interest

My child lives overseas with me

- If your child lives with you overseas and he/she is not yet 18 years old, then:
 - You may file N-600K, *Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate under Section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act*, with fee
 - You and your child will be scheduled for an interview in the U.S.
 - Your child will acquire U.S. citizenship after this interview if USCIS approves the application
 - NOTE: Your child must still be under 18 years old when the application is approved and U.S. Citizenship is acquired
- Refer to the USCIS website for forms and filing instructions



Related Topics of Interest

- We need a Social Security Number for our child
 - Please refer to the Social Security Administration's website (www.socialsecurity.gov) or call 1-800-772-1213
- We are going overseas
 - Information concerning U.S. passports and when they are required may be found on the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov



Questions?

