

### **Can a child residing abroad apply for the Certificate of Citizenship?**

A child residing abroad can apply for citizenship by filing the N-600k Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate Under Section 322. This application can be filed at any USCIS office or sub-office in the United States. Children presently outside the US can obtain US citizenship if five requirements are met.

1. The child must have one US citizen parent, whether by birth or naturalization;
2. The US citizen parent must have resided in the US for at least five years, at least two of which must have been after age 14, or have a US citizen grandparent who meets this residency requirement;
3. The child must be under age 18;
4. The child must be residing outside the US in the physical and legal custody of the US citizen parent; and
5. The child must be temporarily admitted to the US in lawful status and must maintain that status until taking the oath of citizenship

There are some cases in which a permanent resident of the US living outside the US may still be considered to reside in the US. However, because this is a highly technical legal issue, the USCIS and the State Department normally require the child to be physically residing in the US. Additionally, a child with permanent resident status who lives outside the US will be allowed to re-enter as a permanent resident and qualify under the CCA.

## **What documentation is necessary when filing for the Certificate of Citizenship for a child living abroad?**

When the child is residing abroad, the following must be submitted in making the application for citizenship:

- Form N-600K
- Photos of the child;
- The child's birth certificate;
- Evidence of the US citizen parent's citizenship (birth or naturalization certificate);
- Marriage certificate (if applicable);
- Evidence of termination of prior marriages (if applicable);
- Evidence of US citizen parent's (or grandparent's) residence in the US;
- Evidence of the child's lawful admission to the US and continuing lawful status;
- Evidence of a final adoption (if applicable);
- Evidence of name change if applicable
- The custody requirements discussed above also apply in cases of children living abroad.