



*Embassy of the United States of America
Bridgetown, Barbados*

Q: I'm a U.S. citizen residing abroad and my child was born outside the United States. Do they automatically acquire U.S. citizenship?

A: No, not automatically. The parents must apply for citizenship for their child by filing for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The child must appear with the parents. Certain conditions must be met in order for the child to qualify for U.S. citizenship. The requirements vary and depend on whether or not both parents are U.S. citizens, whether they were married at the time of birth, and how long they have resided in or been present in the United States. Parents will need to prove their U.S. residence or physical presence by providing documents such as tax returns, school records, military service records, or property deeds and leases.

If the U.S. embassy or consulate determines that the child acquired U.S. citizenship at birth, the Department of State will issue a CRBA. According to U.S. law, a CRBA is proof of U.S. citizenship and may be used to obtain a U.S. passport and register for school, among other purposes. Parents may also apply for a passport for their child at the same time that they apply for citizenship.

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