

Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) Frequently Asked Questions

Questions about documentation/transmission/filiation requirements:

1. How long does it take to get an NSO birth certificate?
It depends on the municipality where the application was filed. Generally it takes approximately 4 to 8 weeks.
2. Why do I need an NSO birth certificate if I have an LCR birth certificate?
The NSO contains more security features than an LCR birth certificate and having an NSO birth certificate is proof that your child's birth certificate has been fully registered in accordance with the Philippine government guidelines.
3. I don't have an NSO birth certificate but my LCR birth certificate was stamped by NSO. Will this do?
Not necessarily. We need to see what was stamped on the LCR birth certificate and determine whether further verification will be needed.
4. My child's NSO birth certificate will not be available for 6 months. Can I come to my appointment and send the NSO BC later?
The NSO birth certificate is your child's only identification. It needs to be presented at the time the application for derivative citizenship is filed.
5. Is it mandatory to have a DNA test?
No. It is not mandatory, but may be recommended by the Consular Officer if the documents presented and other circumstances of the case are insufficient to establish the child's biological relationship to his/her claimed U.S. citizen parent.
6. How much does a DNA test cost?
The DNA cost depends on the U.S. laboratory that conducts the test. However, there is a standard fee for specimen collection at the Embassy by the representative of the authorized medical facility.
7. How long do I have to wait for DNA test results?
Approximately 2 to 3 weeks.
8. Can I take a DNA test before the appointment and include the test results with my application?
We do not encourage taking the DNA test before the application for citizenship is filed at the Embassy. In the first place, DNA is not a requirement, and furthermore, there is a standard procedure in the DNA process prescribed by the Department of State.
9. Can I get the DNA test done in the Philippines?
Currently, there is no medical facility in the Philippines authorized by the Department of State to conduct DNA test. Only the collection of specimen can be done at the Embassy with the assistance of an authorized medical facility personnel.
10. I am an American citizen, so my child is also an American, right?
If the child is born to a U.S. citizen parent outside of the U.S., the child may be eligible to become a U.S. citizen by virtue of derivative citizenship, but this is not automatic.
11. What documents can I present to prove physical presence in the U.S.?
Regularly available documents that may establish your physical presence/residence in the U.S. include transcripts from High School and/or College, old passports with entry/exit stamps, a Military Statement of Service or DD-214 Separation Statement (military members only).
12. I've made a lot of short trips to and from the U.S. Do I have to include all of these on the form? How far back does the list of my trips have to go?
Yes, we prefer that you include all the dates of your travel whether short or long trips. If the U.S. citizen parent was born in the U.S., the reported period starts from birth until the day

before the birth of the applicant. If naturalized, the period starts from the date of the parent's arrival in the U.S., even if citizenship happened later.

13. I don't think I meet the physical presence/transmission requirements to transmit citizenship. Should I file a CRBA application for my child anyway?

If you need an official determination of non-acquisition of citizenship due to lack of physical presence/transmission, you should file an application and pay the appropriate fee in order to receive a denial letter. This letter is useful if you are planning to file an immigrant visa petition for the child.

14. My U.S. citizen parent's whereabouts are unknown. How can I locate him/her? Can I submit a CRBA application if I can't find him/her?

If your U.S. citizen parent's whereabouts are unknown but if you have sufficient information about him to make a citizenship determination, we encourage you to file an application. We can provide addresses that may help you locate your father but we do not do investigations.

15. I am not married to my child's mother. What documents can I present to establish my blood relationship to the child?

In order to establish blood relationship to a child, we need to establish that the parents had an exclusive relationship prior to the child's conception. Evidence such as photos prior to the time of conception, letters, and other correspondence may help establish the couple's relationship. When no other form of credible evidence is available, genetic testing is a viable tool for establishing blood relationship between the U.S. citizen parent and the child.

16. We have a child who was previously documented as an American Citizen at the Embassy. Do we need to re-submit evidence of the required physical presence in the United States prior to the birth of my child?

If the child to be registered was born after the birth of the child previously documented, it is possible that you will no longer need to submit evidence of the required physical presence. We can base our computation on the recorded information in our system.

Questions about the interview appointment and other application processes:

1. How can I make an appointment?

Go to our website: <http://manila.U.S.embassy.gov/>, click U.S. Citizen Services tab and select Consular Report of Birth Abroad and follow the instructions.

2. Can I come to the embassy without an appointment?

Only applicants with scheduled appointment will be accommodated, unless the case involves a real life-or-death emergency.

3. I am the U.S. citizen parent, but I won't be in the country on the day of the appointment. Can my child's other parent submit the application for me even if s/he isn't a U.S. citizen?

For a U.S. passport, the non-U.S. citizen parent can file the application but must present a completed, notarized Form DS 3053 (statement of consent) from the non-appearing parent. The non-U.S. citizen parent can submit an application for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad without the notarized consent form.

4. Does my child have to come to the interview?

Yes, the child's personal appearance is required.

5. I am not married to the other parent of my child. Does s/he need to be there for the appointment?

Yes, both parents should come to the Embassy with the child.

6. Can I apply for a passport when I come in for my child's CRBA appointment?
Yes, the passport application can be filed together with the CRBA application but it is not required.
7. I can't fill out the forms on-line. Can I hand-write them instead?
The online completed form is preferable, but we will accept a legible, hand-written form at this time.
8. Your on-line system shows that all appointment slots are blocked/full. Can I call your office to book an appointment?
Appointment booking is made through our mail-in system only. Please consult our website for detailed instructions.
9. I made an appointment but couldn't print the appointment confirmation. Can I still come to my appointment?
Yes, you can still come to your appointment without an appointment letter. We provide our guards with a list of applicants with appointments daily.
10. I don't live in Manila. Can I apply for a CRBA at the Consular Agency in Cebu?
If you live in the Cebu area, you can file the application at our Consular Agency without an appointment. Please refer to our website for a list of required documents. To file the application at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, please follow our instructions on the website.
11. Can I use a credit card to pay the application fees for the CRBA/passport?
Yes, major credit cards are acceptable.
12. Can I apply for a social security number on the day of my CRBA appointment?
The application for a Social Security number should be filed at the Social Security Administration office after the child has been documented as a U.S. citizen and issued a Consular Report of Birth Abroad. The SSA has an office at the U.S. Embassy Manila.
13. I submitted all the required documents for the CRBA. How long will it take for me to get the document?
From the date of approval, it will take approximately 4 to 5 weeks to complete the process, including the shipping of the Consular Report of Birth Abroad to you by courier.
14. I don't have money to pay the courier fee. Can I arrange to pay when the documents are delivered to my home?
Yes, cash on delivery basis is available.
15. Can I expedite delivery or pick up of my documents at the Embassy or Consular Agency?
Yes, as long as you can prove to us the need for expedited processing.