



Embassy of the United States of America
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

May 3, 2010

Mr. Andy Edwards
Deputy Chief Immigration Officer
Immigration Division
Head Office, Frederick Street
Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago

RE: Requests to Verify U.S. Citizenship

Dear Mr. Edwards,

The U.S. Embassy presents its compliments to the Immigration Division of Trinidad and Tobago, and wishes to provide clarification on the matter cited above.

The U.S. Embassy does not provide letters verifying U.S. citizenship. The U.S. Government recognizes a valid U.S. passport as primary evidence of U.S. citizenship and prohibits its Embassies and Consulates from providing letters or other documents in lieu of passports or Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (for children who are born abroad and qualified for U.S. citizenship at birth) to affirm citizenship.

The U.S. Embassy also does not maintain records on when U.S. citizens acquired their citizenship. The only documents issued by a U.S. Embassy or Consulate are passports and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. The U.S. Embassy does not issue letters stating when a citizen acquired citizenship.

The Embassy advises U.S.-born citizens to obtain certified birth certificates directly from the city, county or state where they were born.

Please visit this website for more information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>

Replacements of Consular Reports of Birth Abroad must be requested in writing from the Dept. of State in Washington, DC.

Please call (202) 955-0307 or visit this website for more information:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_825.html

Citizens who naturalized may demonstrate when they acquired citizenship by presenting their Certificate of Naturalization. If they have lost their certificate, they may request a new Certificate of Naturalization by submitting an “Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document” (Form N-565) to the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Form N-565 can be downloaded at www.uscis.gov and submitted by mail directly to the USCIS address below, along with the appropriate fee. As of March 2010, the fee was \$380.00 (US). Please call 1-800-375-5283 to request updated fee information. Forms may be submitted at the Embassy, along with payment in U.S. dollars in the form of an international postal money order. Please note that forms submitted at the Embassy will be forwarded to USCIS via regular mail delivery, which may take an extra two to four weeks to reach the U.S.

For questions about processing time, please call the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.

For regular mail:

DHS/USCIS Texas Service Center (USCIS TSC)

PO Box 851182

Mesquite, Texas 75185-1182

Telephone 1-800-375-5283

For express courier mail:

USCIS TSC

4141 St. Augustine Rd.

Dallas, Texas 75227

Telephone 1-800-375-5283

As always, the U.S. Embassy is grateful for the service provided to U.S. citizens by the Immigration Division of Trinidad and Tobago.

Sincerely,

American Citizen Services Unit

U.S. Embassy Port of Spain

Trinidad and Tobago

Office: (868) 622-6371

acspos@state.gov