

Important Information for IVF/Surrogacy Centers and Agencies

Please read the information below concerning an application for a **Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA)** for children born via in-vitro fertilization (IVF) or surrogacy methods.

Consular section advises U.S. citizens pursuing IVF or surrogacy in Georgia to contact us at: askconsultbilisi@state.gov

Following information and instructions are provided to any interested U.S. citizen.

Overview

Citizenship for children born abroad to U.S. citizen parent(s) is recognized through a document called the **Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA)**. Several documents are required for the issuance of a CRBA, which is proof citizenship and can be used to receive a U.S. passport.

In connection with your child's CRBA application, please note the following:

1. Both parents* along with the baby must appear in front of a Consular Officer at the US Embassy. After the appointment with the Consular section in Tbilisi, there is no further requirement for both parents to stay in Georgia while the results of DNA testing are pending.
2. **The U.S. Embassy requires DNA testing for all surrogacy and IVF births**

The blood relationship between the child and the putative U.S. citizen parent must be proven. As such, additional evidence beyond the child's local birth certificate and statement of the parents is required.

Parents should be prepared to provide the following information at the time of the child's CRBA appointment:

- Certification by appropriate medical authorities of all facts and circumstances surrounding the entire insemination procedure is required. Examples of appropriate supporting documentation include hospital records from the facility where the insemination was performed and affidavits from the doctors who performed the operation;
- We will require DNA testing for the child and the biological parent(s). All DNA testing should be carried out at AABB's Accredited Parentage Testing Laboratories <http://www.aabb.org/sa/facilities/Pages/RTestAccrFac.aspx> . The cost varies depending on which American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) accredited laboratory in the US you choose. Specific instructions on DNA testing is available on our website: <http://georgia.usembassy.gov/dnatesting.html>. We can accept DNA test results via email directly from the accredited laboratory.

Scheduling an appointment at the U.S. Embassy Consular section

In order to better serve U.S. citizens, all Consular services are *by appointment only*. Citizens should schedule an appointment online on our website at:

<http://georgia.usembassy.gov/consular-report-of-birth-abroad.html>

For parents wishing to make expedited appointment requests, they may contact us via email and we will schedule the first available appointment after the baby is born.

Coming to the U.S. Embassy Consular section on the day of the scheduled appointment

At the time of the appointment, parents should bring the following documents and forms listed below.

1. Child's birth certificate: one original and one certified copy, with English translation.
2. Proof of parents' citizenship:

For American citizen parent(s):

- U.S. passport; or
- U.S. birth certificate, showing filing date and issuing office's seal; or
- U.S. Naturalization Certificate; or
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad

For the non-U.S. citizen parent: identity document (passport, citizenship id card, etc.)

3. Parent's marriage certificate (if married): one original and one certified copy, with English translation .

Proof of termination of all previous marriages, if applicable (i.e. divorce or death certificate)

4. Applicable forms, photos, fees:
 - a. Completed application for Consular Report of Birth Abroad **DS-2029** (parents should not sign it, as the oath will be taken by the Consul)
 - b. Completed passport application, Form **DS-11** (parents should not sign it, as the oath will be taken by the Consul)
 - c. Application for Social Security Number Form **SS-5**
 - d. Two identical passport photos, 2" x 2" (5cm x 5 cm), color with light background, taken within the past six months (See Annex 2)
 - e. Fees of \$205. CRBA fee- \$100, Passport fee- \$105 (accepted in cash only).

5. Proof of parent's ability to transmit U.S. citizenship:

When a child has one U.S. citizen and one alien parent, the Consular Section will need proof of the **U.S. citizen parent's extended residence in the U.S.** Such proof may be in the form of old passports, school, tax, employment, travel, or other records.

DNA sample collection (Annex 1)

DNA sample collection will be scheduled after the initial appointment.

Preparation for DNA testing requires the following:

- A photocopy of a Picture ID/Passport of both parents
- Child's original birth certificate with copy/translated and notarized into English.
- Photo of child, size 5X5cm.

Timelines

Usually it takes around 10 business days for CRBA and passport processing **after** DNA test results are received by our office. **Therefore, parents should be prepared for a total wait of approximately 3-4 weeks in total from the time of initial appointment.** We can grant emergency passports after receiving complete CRBA and passport applications and receiving conclusive DNA results, in which case the wait would be 1-2 weeks. There is no expedited service for CRBA processing as these documents are printed in the US. Parents may arrange the prepaid delivery for the CRBA to home outside of Georgia via the express mail and they could depart prior to receiving the CRBA, but once the emergency passport is processed.

We take all possible actions to expedite the processing of newborn child cases but we cannot schedule DNA appointments until after the child is born and the applications and oaths have been accepted by an officer, to determine that all other citizenship transmission legal requirements are met. This means that the biological parent and the child will need to make a total of two trips to the Embassy, together. The final trip to pick up the passport does not require presence of the child.

*If one parent is not physically present at the time of the application, then a notarized form **DS-3053** should accompany the CRBA application. If the missing parent is not in the U.S. then the form should be notarized at the nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy. A certified true copy of the missing parent's passport or photo ID should accompany the form **DS-3053**.

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Resources

The U.S. Embassy website provides further information concerning the list of documents and the fee for the CRBA and passport at: <http://georgia.usembassy.gov/consular-report-of-birth-abroad.html>

For even more information regarding what is required for CRBAs and passports, citizens should visit the following website: http://travel.state.gov/law/citizenship/citizenship_782.html

ANNEX I

DNA TESTING

DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Testing Information

In order to establish a biological relationship in conjunction with your visa application, a DNA test might be recommended in your case. If the consular officer suggests you proceed with DNA testing, please read the following information carefully and follow these directions. DNA testing analyzes the genetic material in human cells and has been found to be over 99 percent accurate in verifying family relationships - parent/child, brother/sister, etc. The testing is entirely voluntary and all costs and expenses associated with it must be paid entirely by the visa or passport applicant and/or his or her family. The test results are usually available within a month, although this varies by lab.

If your relative is located in the United States, their test must be conducted in a Laboratory accredited by the [American Association of Blood Banks](http://www.aabb.org/) (AABB) (<http://www.aabb.org/>). The person(s) to be tested must independently choose his or her own [AABB Laboratory](#), make the appointment and go to the collection site directly. Under no circumstances can individuals use 3rd party vendors to select their laboratory, arrange their appointments or transport the specimens. The requested specimen collection technique is buccal (cheek or mouth cavity) swab.

Step 1:

The petitioner and/or parent must select an AABB-accredited laboratory and make the necessary arrangements for conducting the DNA test, including payment for all tested parties. Petitioner and/or parent should not use third-party vendors to select their laboratory, to arrange appointments or to transport the specimens outside of the laboratory chain-of-custody controls. The DNA samples for the petitioner and/or parent must be collected at a designated AABB testing site in the United States or at a laboratory overseas.

The AABB laboratory selected by the petitioner and/or parent will send a test kit, including a pre-paid, pre-addressed return envelope and explicit sampling instructions, directly to the Embassy's Consular Section:

**Embassy of the United States of America
Consular Section
11 George Balanchine Street
Tbilisi 0131**

Step 2:

Once the Embassy receives your testing kit, the consular office will contact the applicant/ parent to arrange a time to come to the Embassy to provide a DNA sample. All persons providing samples must bring their passports and 2 passport photographs. The identity of the individual being tested will be verified and confirmed by the Embassy. A lab technician from the Embassy

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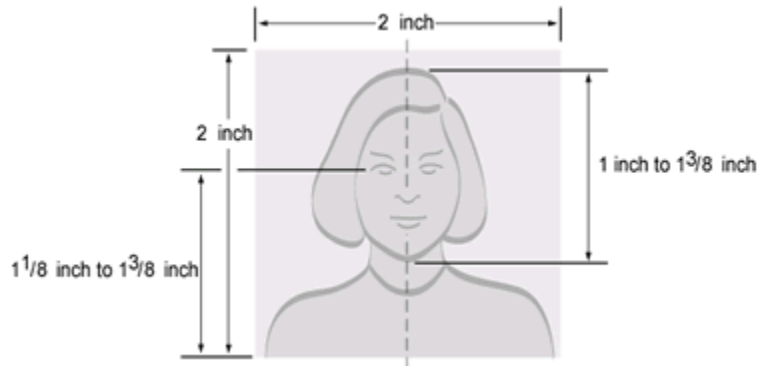
panel physician's office will collect the DNA sample in the consular section. Once the test is complete, the Embassy will seal the DNA samples and ship them, using the pre-paid envelope, to the designated AABB laboratory.

Step 3:

AABB Laboratories will send test results directly to the Embassy. Even though petitioner/parent may receive his/her own copy of the results earlier, the Embassy can act only after receiving results directly from the AABB Laboratory. When the Embassy receives the results, we will contact the applicant/parent in Georgia.

Annex 2

Passport photo must be:



- In color
- 2 x 2 inches (51 x 51 mm) in size
- Sized such that the head is between 1 inch and 1 3/8 inches (between 25 and 35 mm) from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head.
- Taken within the last 6 months to reflect your current appearance
- Taken in front of a plain white or off-white background
- Taken in full-face view directly facing the camera
- With a neutral facial expression and both eyes open

Taken in clothing that you normally wear on a daily basis:

- Uniforms should not be worn in your photo, except religious clothing that is worn daily.
- Do not wear a hat or head covering that obscures the hair or hairline, unless worn daily for a religious purpose. Your full face must be visible, and the head covering must not cast any shadows on your face.
- Headphones, wireless hands-free devices or similar items are not acceptable in your photo.
- If you normally wear prescription glasses, a hearing device or similar articles, they may be worn for your photo.
- Dark glasses or non-prescription glasses with tinted lenses are not acceptable unless you need them for medical reasons (a medical certificate may be required)
- Glare on glasses is not acceptable in your photo. Glare can be avoided with a slight downward tilt of the glasses or by removing the glasses or by turning off the camera flash.