



## Deficit Reduction Act

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### What is the Deficit Reduction Act?

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) was passed by congress in July of 2005. It requires that most United States citizens or nationals who apply for or receive Medi-Cal present proof of citizenship and identification.

### Who is affected?

Only certain United States citizens and nationals are affected. Non- citizen immigrants (un-documented immigrants, legal permanent residents, refugees, asylees, victims of domestic violence and trafficking) are **NOT** affected by this law.

**NOTE:** It is important to emphasize that **nothing will change** for non-citizen immigrants who are applying for or currently receiving Medi-Cal. They will comply with the same documentation process they always have.

### Who is a U.S. citizen or national?

A U. S. Citizen is someone who is born in one of the 50 United States, Guam, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, or who has obtained their citizenship through their parents, or is a naturalized immigrant.

U.S. Nationals are certain people from the Mariana Islands, American Samoa or Swain's Island.

### Who is exempt?

U. S. citizens who receive:

- SSI
- Social Security Disability or Retirement
- Medicare
- Cal-Works

Individuals receiving or applying for Medi-Cal under:

- Minor Consent
- Foster Care
- Kin-Gap,
- Adoption Assistance
- Presumptive Eligibility (for both pregnancy and Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program)

Children receiving Medi-Cal as:

- Deemed Eligible infants
- or through:
- Accelerated Eligibility
- CHDP Gateway
- School Lunch Program
- Single Point of Entry

## **What documents will be required?**

Non-exempt individuals must present original or certified documents proving citizenship and identification. There are four tiers of acceptable documentation for citizenship and a 5<sup>th</sup> tier that outlines acceptable identification documents. Tier One documents satisfy both citizenship AND identification requirements.\*

Many beneficiaries will not have to provide any proof of citizenship because the State has matched their California birth record to the Medi-Cal database. These individuals will only have to present proof of identity.

\*On the next page is a list of acceptable DRA documentation:

## **What if a beneficiary fails to comply?**

If someone who is applying for Medi-Cal fails to comply with the DRA requirements they will not begin receiving benefits until they do comply. If at any point the applicant declares that they have stopped making an effort to comply, they may receive restricted benefits.

Beneficiaries who are currently receiving Medi-Cal will be asked to comply at the time of their Annual Re-determination. As long as the recipient is making a “good faith effort” to comply, they will continue to receive their benefits. If the recipient declares that they have stopped making a “good faith effort” to comply, their benefits will be reduced to restricted Medi-Cal.

## **What about pregnant women?**

Pregnant women who are applying for Medi-Cal should first be referred to a Presumptive Eligibility provider to begin receiving prenatal care. Women who are U.S. citizens or nationals who are applying for full scope benefits will be asked to comply with DRA regulations after the Presumptive Eligibility period ends. If a woman feels she is not able to provide the required documents, she should state that she can not make a “good faith effort” at this time so she can begin receiving Restricted Scope benefits. These include prenatal and pregnancy related care. Later, if she can produce the required documents within a year of her application date, she can receive retroactive full scope benefits, if otherwise eligible.

## **When will it begin?**

As of January, 2008, there is no set date to begin collecting DRA documents in Los Angeles County. The County is estimating “operationalizing” sometime in the spring of 2008. The California Department of Health Services began sending out informational notices to beneficiaries beginning October 12, 2007. As of this writing, **Application Assistors will not collect this documentation.** Department of Social Services will instruct beneficiaries on how and when to bring documentation to County offices.

## **Where can I get more information and training on DRA?**

For training, contact Maternal and Child Health Access at **(213)749-4261**.

If you have questions or problems, contact:

Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles at **(800) 896-3203**,  
MCH Access at **(213) 749-4261**.

Tier 1- Proves both Citizenship and Identity  
U.S. passport  
Can be EXPIRED passport Issued without limitation  
Certificate of Naturalization  
Certificate of Citizenship  
Example: for individuals deriving citizenship through a parent

Tier 2  
Must also provide proof of identity

U.S. Public Birth Record issued before age 5\*  
Certification of Birth from a state or territory of U.S. or Birth Abroad  
Consular Report of Birth Abroad of citizen  
ID card as U.S. citizen, American Indian Northern Mariana  
Final Adoption Decree showing U.S. birthplace  
Evidence U.S. Civil Service employment before 6/1/1976  
Office of military record of service showing U.S. birthplace

Tier 3  
Must also provide Proof of Identity

Extract of hospital record on hospital letterhead established at time of birth  
Life or health or other insurance record  
Requirements for document:

- Must show U.S. birthplace
- Must have been created 5 years before Medi-Cal application unless < 5

Tier 4  
Must also provide Proof of Identity

Federal or State census record showing U.S. citizenship or birthplace and applicant's age  
Seneca Indian or Bureau of Indian Affairs /Navaho Indians tribal census record\*  
U.S. State Vital Statistics official notification of birth registration\*  
U.S. public birth record amended more than 5 years after birth \*  
Statement signed by doctor or midwife in attendance at time of birth \*  
Institutional admission papers from nursing home, SNF, other institution showing U.S. birthplace  
Medical record, excluding immunization records \*  
Written Affidavit  
School record showing U.S. place of birth of student and parents, date of admission and DOB

\*Must show U.S. birthplace and have been created 5 years before application unless <5 years old

Tier 5-Proof of Identity

-U.S. Passport -can be used for identity if issued with limitation  
-U.S. State or Territorial driver's license or ID card with photograph and identifying information  
-Certificate of Degree of Native American blood; Native American/Alaska Native tribal document with photograph or other identifying information  
-School ID card with photograph  
-U.S. military or dependent card or draft record  
-Federal, State or Local Gov't ID card with identifying information  
-For people with disabilities who live in a residential care facility, an affidavit signed by the facilities director  
-3 or more confirming documents such as employee ids, high school or college diplomas, marriage licenses, divorce decrees, and property deeds/titles.  
-U.S. Coast Card Merchant Mariner card  
-School, daycare records, or report cards for children under 16.  
-Clinic, doctor or hospital records for a child under 16.  
-Affidavit for children under 16\*  
\*For Children Under 16  
Parent's or Guardian's signature on the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families application that shows child's date and place of birth.  
●Note: Expired identity documents are acceptable