



Deficit Reduction Act

What is the Deficit Reduction Act?

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) is a federal law, passed in 2005. Part of the law addresses documents for Medi-Cal. The DRA says that most United States citizens or nationals who have or want to get Medi-Cal must show original proof that they are citizens. They must also show identification.

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 became a citizen 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 does not have to follow this law?

Immigrants who are not citizens, (undocumented immigrants, legal permanent residents, refugees, asylees, victims of domestic violence and trafficking do **NOT** have to follow this law.

NOTE: If you are an immigrant who is not a citizen nothing will change. If you apply for or already have Medi-Cal, you will show the same documents as before.

Who else does not have to follow this law?

U. S. citizens who get:

- Money from Social Security Disability or Social Security Retirement
- Cal Works
- Medicare
- Supplementary Security Income (SSI)

People who get or are trying to get Medi-Cal under these programs:

- Minor Consent
- Foster Care
- Kin-Gap
- Adoption Assistance
- Presumptive Eligibility (temporary Medi-Cal for both pregnancy and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program)
- Babies less than 1 year old whose moms had Medi-Cal when they were born.
- Some children who got their Medi-Cal through the school lunch program.
- Children who applied for temporary Medi-Cal at a clinic through a child health program called CHDP

What documents will I have to show?

- Original or certified documents to prove you are a citizen.
- Identification.

On the last page is a list of some of the documents you can use to prove your citizenship and identity.

Some people who were born in California won't have to show proof that they are citizens because California matched their birth records to the Medi-Cal computer. These people will get a letter saying that they have a match. They will only have to show proof of identity.

What if I don't show my documents?

If you are applying for Medi-Cal you will get your Medi-Cal benefits as long as you tell your Eligibility Worker that you are trying to get your proof of citizenship and identity. If you tell your eligibility worker that you have stopped trying to get your documents, you may get restricted benefits (emergency or pregnancy-related Medi-Cal).

If you already have Medi-Cal you will be asked to show your documents at your Annual Medi-Cal Renewal or "redetermination". As long as you are trying to get your documents (called "making a good faith effort") no one will change your Medi-Cal. If you tell your eligibility worker that you have stopped making a "good faith effort" to get the documents, your Medi-Cal will be changed to restricted (emergency or pregnancy-related only) Medi-Cal.

What if I don't have my documents?

Don't worry. If you don't have your documents, tell your Eligibility Worker you are making a "good faith effort" (that is, you are trying) to get them. Your Eligibility Worker should help you. If you were born in California the Eligibility Worker can look for your birth certificate in the state computer. If you were born in another state they can request proof that you have a birth certificate on file in that state.

What if I'm pregnant?

- Go to a clinic or doctor that has Presumptive Eligibility (PE) to begin your prenatal care. Presumptive Eligibility is temporary Medi-Cal for pregnant women. PE will also cover abortion services. When you go to apply for regular Medi-Cal you will have to follow the DRA law to get full benefits.
- If you don't have your documents, you should tell your Eligibility Worker that you are trying to get them. The County can then give you your full Medi-Cal benefits. If you stop trying to get them you can get Medi-Cal for prenatal and pregnancy-related care only. Later, if you can find your documents within a year of your application date, you can get your full Medi-Cal benefits back to the date you applied. Remember: ask the County to help you if you don't have your proof.

What if I need help?

If you have questions or problems, call:
Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles at **(800) 896-3203**, or
Maternal and Child Health Access at **(213) 749-4261**.

Documents You Can Use For DRA

Documents that Prove BOTH Citizenship AND Identity:

1. A United States Passport (can be expired)
2. Certificate of Naturalization
3. Certificate of Citizenship
4. Certificate of Citizenship
5. Certain Native American Tribal documents

Documents that ONLY prove Citizenship:

1. A U.S. Birth Certificate
2. A hospital birth record
3. Statement signed by the doctor of midwife who delivered the baby
4. Admission papers to a nursing home
5. Medical record that shows you were born in the U.S. is more than 5 years old
6. School record that shows a U.S, birth place, date of admission and date of birth
7. Written affidavit
8. An adoption decree
9. Military Service record that show a U.S. birth place

Documents that Prove Identity (can be expired):

1. Drivers License or I.D. issued by a U.S. state or territory
2. School I.D. with photograph
3. Certificate of Native American blood.
4. Native American tribal record or I.D
5. 3 or more documents such as employee I.D.s, high school or college diplomas, marriage licenses, divorce decrees, and property deeds/titles.
6. For Children under 16: The parents signature on the Medi-Cal application, an Affidavit, School report cards, or medical records.
7. For people in Nursing Homes or Institutions: An affidavit signed by the facility's director.

There are other documents you can use to prove Citizenship and Identity as well.

If you were born in California ask your Eligibility Worker to do a Birth Record Match.

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