

U.S. Citizens and Nationals Applying for Medi-Cal Must Show Proof of Citizenship and Identity

A new law says *most* U.S. citizens or nationals applying to Medi-Cal must show proof of citizenship *and* proof of identity. Read below to see if this law applies to you.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, this law does not apply to you.

The new law does *not* apply to U.S. citizens or nationals in any of these categories:

- Anyone with:
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Medicare
 - Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
 - Social Security Retirement and Survivors Insurance (RSI – Title II) based on their own disability
- Anyone under 21 asking for Minor Consent Services
- Babies born to women on Medi-Cal
- Children in Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, or Kin-GAP
- Babies in the Abandoned Baby Program
- CalWORKs Beneficiaries

What if I am not one of the above people?

If you are a U.S. citizen or national, you must provide proof of citizenship and identity to be eligible for Medi-Cal. (See *page 3 for a list of acceptable proof of citizenship and identity.*)

U.S. nationals include people born in American Samoa (including Swains Island) and certain people from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

What if I am NOT a U.S. citizen?

If you are not a U.S. citizen or national, you only need to provide the same documents that were required before. Nothing has changed.

How can I get proof of citizenship?

If you were born in California, the county may be able to get your birth record. (A birth record is proof of citizenship.)

Fill out a *Request for California Birth Record* to ask the county to request your birth record. Then, mail or take this form to your local social services office. If a birth record cannot be found, you will need to provide another proof of citizenship. See page 3 for list of acceptable documents.

Ask your county about getting proof of citizenship if you were not born in California. Contact the county to see if they have found a birth record match for you before you pay for a birth certificate.

What if I cannot provide proof of citizenship or identity?

You should still apply now and provide proof later.

If you cannot provide your proof now, and you meet all other eligibility requirements, you will receive full-scope benefits. After a reasonable amount of time, your full-scope benefits will be changed to limited benefits if you stop trying to provide the documents and are still eligible for Medi-Cal. Limited benefits cover emergency, pregnancy-related, and long-term care services.

If your benefits are reduced to limited benefits and you provide proof within one year of your application date, your Medi-Cal benefits will be restored back to full-scope starting from the date you received limited benefits.

If you incurred health costs while getting your citizenship and identity documents, Medi-Cal may pay for your bills. Call the Beneficiary Service Center at the Department of Health Care Services for answers to your questions: (916) 403-2007.

Do children have to provide proof of citizenship and identity, too?

Yes. If your child was born in California, ask your county to request the birth record as proof of citizenship.

If your child is under 16 and you have filled out and signed the Medi-Cal application or the Healthy Families/Medi-Cal joint application with your child's date and place of birth, you do not need to provide proof of identity. (This signed application is proof of your child's identity.) You will still have to provide proof of citizenship.

If your child is 16 or over, you will still need to provide proof of identity for your child. See page 3.

If your child applies through CHDP Gateway, a School Lunch Program, or the Healthy Families/Medi-Cal joint application, you do not have to provide proof until your county social services office asks you for it.

What if I need Medi-Cal before the county has time to process my application?

Tell the county about your immediate need for medical care to speed up your application. In addition, many pregnant women and children can start receiving Medi-Cal right away by going to a doctor or clinic that participates in programs providing temporary Medi-Cal to them if eligible.

Do I have to provide proof of citizenship and identity every year?

No. You only have to provide this information once – either when you first apply or on your next annual eligibility review.

Does this law affect my Food Stamps, CalWORKs, or Healthy Families benefits?

No. The new citizenship and identity requirements apply to Medi-Cal only.

Do you need *original* citizenship and identity documents?

Yes. We need the *original* citizenship and identity documents, or copies that have been certified by the issuing agency.

Can I mail my proof?

Yes. The county will make copies and mail them back to you. Or, you can *take* your documents to your local social services office. Ask them to make copies and give them back right away.

Acceptable Citizenship and Identity Documents

The easiest way for U.S. citizens or nationals to prove citizenship and identity is with **one** of these documents:

- U.S. Passport issued without limitation (expired ones are acceptable)
- Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570)
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (N-560 or N-561)

– **OR** –

If you do not have one of the documents above, provide...

One citizenship document listed below:

- ❖ U.S. Birth Certificate
- ❖ Certification of Report of Birth (*DS-1350*)
- ❖ Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen (*FS-240*)
- ❖ State Department Certification of Birth (*FS-545* or *DS-1350*)
- ❖ U.S. Citizen Identification Card (*I-197* or *I-179*)
- ❖ American Indian Card (*I-872*)
- ❖ Northern Marianas Card (*I-873*)
- ❖ Final adoption decree showing a U.S. place of birth
- ❖ Proof of adoption of a child born outside U.S. and in the legal/physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent (*IR-3* or *IR-4*)
- ❖ Proof of U.S. civil service employment before June 1, 1976
- ❖ U.S. military service record showing a U.S. place of birth
- ❖ U.S. hospital record made at the time of birth * †
- ❖ Life, health, or other insurance record * †
- ❖ Religious record recorded in the U.S. within 3 months of birth showing U.S. place of birth and birth date or age
- ❖ Early school record showing a U.S. place of birth, date of admission, birth date, names and places of birth of parents
- ❖ Federal or State census record that shows the applicant's age and U.S. citizenship or place of birth
- ❖ Seneca Indian tribal census record * †
- ❖ Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Indians tribal census record * †
- ❖ U.S. State Vital Statistics birth registration notification * †
- ❖ A delayed U.S. public birth record that was recorded more than 5 years after the person's birth * †
- ❖ Statement signed by doctor or midwife present at the birth * †
- ❖ Roll of Alaska Natives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs * †
- ❖ Admission papers from a nursing or skilled care facility, or other institution that shows a U.S. place of birth *
- ❖ Medical record (not an immunization record) * †

** Must be dated at least 5 years before your 1st Medi-Cal application and show a U.S. place of birth.*

† For children under 16, must be created near the time of birth.

You **must** provide a document as high up on the list as you can.

*If you **cannot** provide any of these citizenship documents...*

Ask two adults to fill out and sign an *Affidavit of Citizenship*. Both adults must have proof of their own identity and U.S. citizenship, and only one of them may be related to you.

– **AND** –

One identity document listed below:

- ❖ Driver's license issued by a U.S. State or Territory with a photograph or other identifying information
- ❖ School Identification card with a photograph
- ❖ U.S. Military I.D. card or draft record
- ❖ Federal, state or local government I.D. card with same identifying information as a driver's license
- ❖ U.S. Military dependent identification card
- ❖ A U.S. passport (issued with limitation)
- ❖ Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood or other U.S. American Indian/Alaska Native Tribal document
- ❖ U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card
- ❖ Three or more confirming documents, such as employee ID cards, high school or college diplomas, marriage licenses, divorce decrees, and property deeds/titles
- ❖ Clinic, doctor, or hospital records for a child under 16
- ❖ School, nursery school, or daycare records, including report cards, for a child under 16. The county will verify with the school.
- ❖ For people with disabilities who live in a residential care facility, an Affidavit signed by the facility's director or administrator

For a **child under 16** who did not provide an *Affidavit of Citizenship*, you may submit:

- ❖ An Affidavit of the child's identity signed by the child's parent, guardian, or caretaker relative with date and place of birth
- ❖ A Medi-Cal application or the Healthy Families/Medi-Cal joint application that shows the child's date and place of birth, and is signed by the child's parent, guardian, or caretaker relative.

For a **child under 18**, an Affidavit of the child's identity signed by the child's parent, guardian, or caretaker relative may be used if school ID cards or driver licenses are not available.

Note: Expired identity documents are acceptable proof of identity.