

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Adoption and citizenship: final adoption, LPR admission and U.S. residence

Does an adoption decree automatically make a child a U.S. citizen?

Adoption alone does not establish every requirement for a foreign-born child's U.S. citizenship. State's Child Citizenship Act guidance distinguishes a citizen parent, the child's LPR status, U.S. residence and legal and physical custody, with additional adoption-document requirements. The immigration route and whether an adoption is full and final matter; a certificate or passport documents the resulting claim.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the actual adoption and immigration route.
- ☐ Confirm whether the adoption is full and final.
- ☐ Examine admission, residence and custody as distinct events.
- ☐ Match the requested citizenship document to its issuing agency.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

U.S. Department of State: Citizenship under the Child Citizenship Act

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/travel-legal-considerations/us-citizenship/child-citizenship-act-of-2000.html>

U.S. Department of State: Passport application: citizenship evidence and document distinctions

<https://travel.state.gov/en/passports/apply/help/citizenship-evidence.html>

USCIS: Adoption: court, parent and child immigration processes

<https://www.uscis.gov/adoption>

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Source links (continued)

USCIS: N-600: Certificate of Citizenship

<https://www.uscis.gov/n-600>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

<https://immigrantinsider.com/editorial-policy/>

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/citizenship/adopted-child/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.