

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

N-400, citizenship certificates and U.S. passports: different jobs

What is the difference between naturalizing, obtaining a citizenship certificate and applying for a passport?

N-400 asks USCIS to naturalize an eligible applicant. N-600 seeks a Certificate of Citizenship for a citizenship claim through a parent, while a passport application asks the Department of State to issue a travel and identity document supported by citizenship evidence. Replacing a certificate is another task and does not create citizenship again.

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 citizenship event or claim.
- ☐ Match the document sought to its issuing agency.
- ☐ Read the receiving authority's current evidence requirements.
- ☐ Keep replacements separate from acquiring citizenship.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: N-400: Naturalization

<https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>

USCIS: N-600: Certificate of Citizenship

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

USCIS: Form N-565: replacement citizenship and naturalization documents

<https://www.uscis.gov/n-565>

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Source links (continued)

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

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

U.S. Department of State: Consular Report of Birth Abroad: citizenship evidence

<https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/living-abroad/birth.html>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/citizenship/certificate-passport/>

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.