

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

CRBA: a consular record of citizenship at birth abroad

What does a Consular Report of Birth Abroad prove, and how is it different from a birth certificate or passport?

A CRBA documents that a qualifying child born abroad acquired U.S. citizenship or nationality at birth through a parent. The Department of State issues it through its consular process for eligible children under eighteen. It is not the foreign civil birth certificate, a custody determination or a passport, and it does not replace the underlying transmission requirements.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Check the law and facts supporting citizenship at birth.
- ☐ Use the relevant embassy or consulate's current instructions.
- ☐ Keep civil birth, citizenship and custody evidence distinct.
- ☐ Distinguish a new CRBA application from replacement of an existing report.

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: Consular Report of Birth Abroad: citizenship evidence

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

U.S. Department of State: Citizenship at birth abroad: historical family inquiry

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/travel-legal-considerations/us-citizenship/Acquisition-US-Citizenship-Child-Born-Abroad.html>

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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>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

Return to the complete guide

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

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.