

Providing Verification of Citizenship for Medicaid

Verifying Citizenship for Medicaid:

Congress passed a law in 2005 requiring that all people who get Medicaid or people who apply for Medicaid must verify that they are U.S. citizens or nationals.

Note: If you are enrolled in Medicare or receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or are a “Qualified Alien”, you will not be affected by this new law.

What kind of verification do you need?

The best way to verify that you are a citizen is with one of these:

- A U.S. Passport
- A Certificate of Naturalization (DHS Forms N-550 or N-570)
- A Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (DHS Forms N-560 or N-561)

(If you do not have any of these items, you will need two documents, one document to show you are a citizen and one document to show who you are.)

You can use any of the following to verify you are a citizen:

- Your birth certificate
- Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350)
- A Report of Certification of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen (Form FS-240 or FS-545)
- U.S. Citizen I.D. card (DHS Form I-197)
- Adoption Papers
- Military Record showing where you were born
- American Indian Card (I-872)
- Northern Mariana ID Card (I-873)
- Evidence of civil service employment by the U.S. government

You can use any of the following to verify who you are:

- Your picture on your current State driver’s license or State ID card
- Your picture on your school ID card
- A U.S. Military ID card
- A Federal, State or Local government ID card with your picture or identifying information such as name, date of birth, sex, height, color of eyes, and address

For individuals under the age 16, verify who you are with:

- School record that shows date and place of birth with parent(s) name
- Clinic, doctor or hospital record showing date of birth
- Daycare or nursery school record showing date and place of birth
- Affidavit signed under penalty of perjury by a parent or guardian (U.S. citizen) attesting to their child’s identity (your Case Manager will have the form needed)

What should you do if you don't have any of these things?

- Check with your local county Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) about other ways to verify you are a citizen and to show who you are
- Tell your local county DFCS why you can't get the verification, and
- Give your local county DFCS any documents you have

NOTE: Only original document or a copy certified by the Agency that has the original can be used. You cannot use a photocopy of a notarized copy of your document.

How much time do you have to show this documentation to Medicaid?

45 days is the normal time your local county DFCS office may need to work on your application. Check with your local county DFCS office if you need additional time to see exactly how much time you have to get your verification.

What if you still have questions?

If you still have questions, contact your local county DFCS office or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. Information is also available on the cms.hhs.gov web site.