

and general welfare of a child to both parents by a court of law or other appropriate government entity pursuant to the laws of the state or country of residence.

Legal custody refers to the responsibility for and authority over a child.

(1) For the purpose of the CCA, the Service will presume that a U.S. citizen parent has legal custody of a child, and will recognize that U.S. citizen parent as having lawful authority over the child, absent evidence to the contrary, in the case of:

(i) A biological child who currently resides with both natural parents (who are married to each other, living in marital union, and not separated),

(ii) A biological child who currently resides with a surviving natural parent (if the other parent is deceased), or

(iii) In the case of a biological child born out of wedlock who has been legitimated and currently resides with the natural parent.

(2) In the case of an adopted child, a determination that a U.S. citizen parent has legal custody will be based on the existence of a final adoption decree. In the case of a child of divorced or legally separated parents, the Service will find a U.S. citizen parent to have legal custody of a child, for the purpose of the CCA, where there has been an award of primary care, control, and maintenance of a minor child to a parent by a court of law or other appropriate government entity pursuant to the laws of the state or country of residence. The Service will consider a U.S. citizen parent who has been awarded "joint custody," to have legal custody of a child. There may be other factual circumstances under which the Service will find the U.S. citizen parent to have legal custody for purposes of the CCA.

§ 322.2 Who is eligible for citizenship?

(a) *General.* A child will be eligible for citizenship under section 322 of the Act, if the following conditions have been fulfilled:

(1) The child has at least one United States citizen parent (by birth or naturalization);

(2) The United States citizen parent has been physically present in the United States or its outlying posses-

sions for at least 5 years, at least 2 of which were after the age of 14, or the United States citizen parent has a United States citizen parent who has been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for at least 5 years, at least 2 of which were after the age of 14;

(3) The child currently is under 18 years of age;

(4) The child currently is residing outside the United States in the legal and physical custody of the United States citizen parent; and

(5) The child is temporarily present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission and is maintaining such lawful status in the United States.

(b) *Additional requirements if child is adopted.* If an adopted child, all of the requirements in paragraph (a) of this section must be fulfilled and the child must satisfy the requirements applicable to adopted children under section 101(b)(1) of the Act.

§ 322.3 How, where, and what forms and other documents should the United States citizen parent(s) file?

(a) *Application.* An application for a certificate of citizenship under this section on behalf of a biological child shall be submitted on Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, by the U.S. citizen parent(s). An application for a certificate of citizenship under this section on behalf of an adopted child shall be submitted on Form N-643, Application for Certificate of Citizenship in Behalf of An Adopted Child by U.S. citizen adoptive parent(s). The completed application and accompanying supporting documentation may be filed at any stateside district office or suboffice. The application must be filed with the filing fee required in § 103.7(b)(1) of this chapter. The U.S. citizen parent should include a request with the N-600 or N-643, noting preferred interview dates, and should allow sufficient time (at least ninety days) to enable the Service office to preliminarily adjudicate the application, schedule the interview, and send the appointment notice to the foreign address.

(b) *Evidence.* (1) An applicant under this section shall establish eligibility under § 322.2. In addition to the forms

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and the appropriate fee as required in § 103.7(b)(1) of this chapter, an applicant must submit the following required documents unless such documents are already contained in the Service administrative file(s):

(i) The child's birth certificate or record;

(ii) Marriage certificate of child's parents (if applicable);

(iii) If the child's parents were married before their marriage to each other, proof of termination of any previous marriage of each parent (*e.g.*, death certificate or divorce decree);

(iv) Evidence of U.S. citizenship of parent (*i.e.*, birth certificate; naturalization certificate; FS-240, Report of Birth Abroad; a valid unexpired U.S. passport; or certificate of citizenship);

(v) If the child was born out of wedlock, documents verifying legitimation according to the laws of the child's residence or domicile or father's residence or domicile (if applicable);

(vi) In case of divorce, legal separation, or adoption, documentation of legal custody (if applicable);

(vii) Documentation establishing that the U.S. citizen parent or U.S. citizen grandparent meets the required physical presence requirements (*e.g.*, school records, military records, utility bills, medical records, deeds, mortgages, contracts, insurance policies, receipts, or attestations by churches, unions, or other organizations);

(viii) Evidence that the child is present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission and is maintaining such lawful status (*e.g.*, Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record) (in certain circumstances, this evidence may be presented at the time of interview);

(ix) If adopted, a copy of a full, final adoption decree;

(x) For adopted children (not orphans) applying under section 322 of the Act, evidence that they satisfy the requirements of section 101(b)(1)(E);

(xi) For adopted orphans applying under section 322 of the Act, a copy of notice of approval of a Form I-600 Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative, and supporting documentation for such form (except the home study); and

(xii) Evidence of all legal name changes, if applicable, for child, U.S.

citizen parent, or U.S. citizen grandparent.

(2) If the Service requires any additional documentation to make a decision on the Form N-600 or N-643, parents may be asked to provide that documentation under separate cover or at the time of interview. Parents do not need to submit documents that were submitted in connection with: An application for immigrant visa and retained by the American Consulate for inclusion in the immigrant visa package, or another immigrant petition or application and included in a Service administrative file. Parents should indicate that they wish to rely on such documents and identify the administrative file(s) by name and alien number. The Service will only request the required documentation again if necessary.

§ 322.4 Who must appear for an interview on the application for citizenship?

The U.S. citizen parent and the child shall appear in person before a Service officer for examination on the application for certificate of citizenship.

§ 322.5 What happens if the application is approved or denied by the Service?

(a) *Approval of application.* If the application for certificate of citizenship is approved, after the applicant takes the oath of allegiance prescribed in 8 CFR part 337, unless the oath is waived, the Service will issue a certificate of citizenship. The child is a citizen as of the date of approval and administration of the oath of allegiance.

(b) *Denial of application.* If the decision of the district director is to deny the application for a certificate of citizenship under this section, the applicant shall be furnished with the reasons for denial and advised of the right to appeal in accordance with the provisions of 8 CFR 103.3(a). An applicant may file an appeal on Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal to the Administrative Appeals Unit (AAU), with the required fee prescribed in § 103.7(b)(1) of this chapter, in accordance with the instructions therein and with any supporting documentation addressing the reasons for denial. To be timely filed,