

Reporting the Birth of U.S. Citizen Abroad and First Passport Application in Marseille

This service is available in Marseille by telephone appointment only, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., except on [French and American holidays](#).

To make an appointment please call 04 91 54 90 84.

Children born outside of the United States of a U.S. citizen parent or parents should be registered at the nearest U.S. Consular Office as soon after birth as possible (before the child's first trip to the United States), and in any case before the age of eighteen years. Upon registration, the child will be issued a **Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America** (Form FS-240). This document is a basic citizenship document that may be used for passport, school, employment, and other purposes.

A Consular Report of Birth cannot be prepared if the child is 18 or older at the time the birth is reported. Persons born abroad who are now 18 years or older and residing abroad and who may have a claim to U.S. citizenship, but who have never been documented as U.S. citizens, should apply to the nearest American Consular Office for information and assistance in registering as U.S. citizens.

Both the child and an American citizen parent should be present for the interview unless this requirement is waived by a consular officer. If for some reason the child or the American citizen parent cannot apply in person, call our office before the visit.

Information summarizing the requirements of U.S. law for the transmission of U.S. citizenship to a child by a U.S. citizen parent(s) is set forth in this information sheet.

You may, if you wish, apply for a social security number for your child (Form SS-5). We will forward your request to the Social Security Administration for issuance of a card to be sent to the address you indicate. This request may take several months.

At the time of your appointment to register your child's birth please submit the following documents:

1) A completed Consular Report of Birth Abroad application form and Social Security number application:

Prior to your appointment, please complete:

- Form [DS-2029](#) (Application for Consular Report of Birth Abroad)
Do not sign this document. Please follow instructions and fill in the information requested in Section A, numbers 1 to 15; **AND** complete
- Form [SS-5](#) (Application for a Social Security Card).

If you have any questions about any of the information requested, please leave those areas blank until you have discussed them with a consular officer.

2) Supporting Documentation

Documentary evidence that must accompany the Report of Birth application is listed below. All documents submitted must be originals or certified copies from the issuing authority. All original documents except the child's birth certificate will be returned to you after the interview.

- **Birth Certificate**

If the child was born in France, request a *Copie de l'Acte Integral de Naissance* from the city hall *mairie* where your child's birth was registered (we will keep this for your child's file). Neither the *livret de famille* nor a *fiche d'état civil* can be accepted in the place of a French birth certificate.

- **Proof of Parent(s) Citizenship**

A U.S. passport is accepted as evidence of citizenship of a parent. Bring as well Certificates of Naturalization, if applicable.

- **Proof of Valid Marriage**

If the parents were married in France, submit the "Livret de Famille" as a marriage certificate. If the parents were married in the U.S., bring the original state marriage certificate issued by the civil authorities, bearing the official seal. If either of the parents were previously married, bring evidence of the termination of all prior marriages.

- **Other**

If you have previously registered the birth of a U.S. citizen child born abroad, please bring a copy of the previous Consular Report of Birth to speed processing. If either parent is deceased, bring a certified copy of the Death Certificate.

- **Proof of Physical Presence in the United States**

If this is the first registration of birth outside the United States, please bring preferably a copy of your school and university transcripts, diplomas).

- A self-addressed **Chronopost envelope** for the return of your child's Consular Report of Birth Abroad and first passport (enter your address in the receiver's box –*destinataire*– and phone number). These envelopes are available at all French post offices. Ask for an envelope for France *métropolitaine*. Please allow two to three weeks for receipt of the Consular Report of Birth Abroad if you are having it sent with the new passport.

3) Report of Birth Fee

\$ 65.00 or the [euro equivalent](#) in cash, traveler's checks, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, AmExpress). **Personal checks are not accepted. Should you wish to pay in cash please bring exact change.**

Requirements of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act for Transmission of U.S. Citizenship to Children Born Abroad

Children Born In Wedlock

Born to Two U.S. Citizens Parents

If either of the parents has resided in the United States prior to the birth of the child, the child acquires U.S. citizenship under the provisions of Section 301(c) of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act. **There is no specific period of residence, and it can have been at any time prior to the birth of the child.**

Born to one U.S. Citizen and one Alien Parent

The U.S. citizen parent must have been physically present in the United States for a period (or periods totaling) five years prior to the birth of the child, at least two of which were after he/she reached the age of fourteen. **This period of physical presence must have taken place prior to the birth of the child.** If this requirement is met, the child acquires U.S. citizenship under the provisions of Section 301(g) of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act (as amended by Public law 99-653 of November 14, 1986).

Children Born Out Of Wedlock

Born to a U.S. Citizen Mother

The U.S. citizen mother must have been physically present in the United States for a continuous period of at least one year before the child's birth. **This period of residence may have been at any time before the child's birth.** If this requirement is met, the child acquires U.S. citizenship under the provisions of Section 309 (c) of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act.

Born to a U.S. Citizen Father and an Alien Mother

In November 1986, the United States Immigration and Nationality Act was amended to permit a child born out of wedlock to a U.S. citizen father and an alien mother to acquire U.S. citizenship at birth based upon clear and convincing evidence of paternity. The father must have fulfilled the appropriate physical presence requirements. The U.S. citizen father must have been physically present in the United States for a period (or periods totaling) five years prior to the birth of the child, at least two of which were after he/she reached the age of fourteen. **This period of physical presence must have taken place prior to the birth of the child.** If this requirement is met, the child acquires U.S. citizenship under the provisions of Section 301(g) of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act (as amended by Public law 99-653 of November 14, 1986).

In addition, the United States citizen father must:

- sign a written agreement to provide financial support until the child reaches the age of eighteen years; AND
- make a statement under oath acknowledging parentage, or
- legitimate the child under the law of the child's residence or domicile, or
- have the paternity of the child adjudicated and established by a competent court.

What Does Physical Presence mean?

Physical presence is counted as the time the parent was actually in the United States. If the parent had a residence in the U.S. but spent most of his/her time traveling or living abroad, only the time actually spent in the U.S. counts as physical presence.

Physical presence usually need not be continuous. Visits of any length to the United States count towards fulfilling physical presence requirements. Any periods spent outside of the U.S., even short vacations, must be accounted for in listing physical presence.

The periods when the parent is not present in the U.S for the following reasons may also be counted as physical presence in the U.S. for the purpose of transmitting United States citizenship:

- Honorable service in the Armed forces of the United States; employment with the United States government or with certain international organizations; or residence overseas as dependent unmarried son or daughter and member of the household of such a person.

The provisions of the preceding sentence do not apply in the case of a child born out of wedlock to a U.S. citizen mother.

Dual Nationality

The Supreme Court of the United States has stated that dual nationality is "a status long recognized in the law" and that "a person may have and exercise rights of nationality in two countries and be subject to the responsibilities of both."

Dual Nationality at Birth

Dual nationality results from the fact that there is no uniform rule of international law relating to the acquisition of nationality. Each country has its own laws on the subject, and its nationality is conferred upon individuals on the basis of its own independent domestic policy. Individuals may have dual nationality not by choice but by automatic operation of these different and sometimes conflicting laws.

The laws of the United States, no less than those of other countries, contribute to the situation because they provide for acquisition of U.S. citizenship by birth in the United States and also by birth abroad to an American, regardless of the other nationalities, which a person might acquire at birth. A child born abroad to U.S. citizens may acquire at birth not only American citizenship but also the nationality of the country in which it was born. Similarly, a child born in the United States to foreigners may acquire at birth both U.S. citizenship and a foreign nationality.

Like Americans who possess only U.S. citizenship, dual national U.S. citizens owe allegiance to this country and are obliged to obey its laws and regulations. Such persons usually have certain obligations to the foreign country as well. Although failure to fulfill such obligations may have no adverse effect on the person while in the United States because the foreign country would have few means to force compliance under those circumstances, the person might be forced to comply with those obligations or pay a penalty if the person goes to the foreign country. In cases where a dual national encounters difficulty in a foreign country of

which the person is a citizen, the ability of U.S. Foreign Service posts to provide assistance may be quite limited since many foreign countries may not recognize the dual national's claim to U.S. citizenship.

Which Passport to Use

Federal law requires that all US citizens use their American passports when entering or leaving the United States. Dual nationals may be required by the other country of which they are citizens to enter and leave that country using its passport, but do not endanger their U.S. citizenship by complying with such a requirement.

For information on replacing a U.S. Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or obtaining a certified copy please refer to:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_825.html

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_828.html

If you are an American citizen but do not have enough physical presence to transmit your U.S. nationality to your child, please refer to the following website page concerning the [Child Citizenship Act of 2000](#).

The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 allows certain foreign-born, biological and adopted children of American citizens to acquire American citizenship automatically. These children did not acquire American citizenship at birth, but they are granted citizenship when they enter the United States as lawful permanent residents (LPRs).

Requirements for First Passport Applications

The personal appearance of a minor applicant for a first passport is mandatory, unless exempted by the Consular Officer.

I. Present Parental Application Permission Documentation:

- a. Both parents must appear together with the child and sign the form DS-11 before the consul

OR

- b. One parent appears, signs, and submits second parent's notarized statement of consent authorizing passport issuance for the child.

A [notarized Form DS-3053, Statement of Consent: Issuance of a Passport to a Minor Under Age 16](#) may be used, or a notarized, written statement with the same information written on a sheet of paper from the non-appearing parent will be accepted. A French notaire or administrative clerk at the *mairie* may certify the signature on these documents.

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II. Required Documents:

- a. Complete the passport application form [DS-11](#) for your child, **but do NOT sign it.**

We recommend you complete all passport application forms online and print them out for your signature. You may also submit a type written or printed form. Please print legibly using black ink. When printing out the form, only one-sided pages of the application form are accepted.

- b. **Bring two identical photographs of the child.** It is difficult to get a passport photograph of a small child in which the face is large enough. Please check the [photograph information sheet](#) and the passport application, where photograph dimensions are specified. **Please bring the photographs to your appointment.** (Note that your child's eyes must be open and the child must be straight on to camera; no profile or no side views.)

- c. **Present Evidence of Child's Relationship to Parents/Guardians**

Note: Previous U.S. passports are not acceptable as proof of relationship to the applying parent(s)/guardian(s).

You will need to submit one of the following:

- French *livret de famille*
- an original U.S. birth certificate (with parents names); or
- a certified [U.S. birth certificate](#) (with parents' names); or
- an original or certified copy of foreign birth certificate (with parents' names.) A sworn translation, may be required if necessary.)

- d. **Provide Parental Identification**

Each parent (any nationality) or guardian must submit one of the following:

- valid U.S. or foreign passport with recognizable photo
- valid drivers license
- valid official U.S. military ID
- valid U.S. government ID
- Naturalization/Citizenship Certificate from [USCIS](#) (U.S. Citizenship and - Immigration Services) with recognizable photo
- Alien Resident Card from [USCIS](#) (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.)

Note: Your social security card does NOT prove your identity.

- e. **Passport fee \$ 85.00** (for children under 16) or the [euro equivalent](#) in cash, traveler's checks or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express.) Personal checks are not accepted. **Should you wish to pay in cash please bring the exact change in euros or dollars.**
- f. Please allow two to three weeks for receipt of the new passport which will be sent with the Consular Report of Birth Abroad in the Chronopost envelope that you submitted.

U.S. Consulate General

American Citizen Services

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