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*Practicing in the areas of Immigration and Citizenship Law  
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## **HOW TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP (COC) FOR YOUR CHILD**

### **1. WHAT USCIS FORM DO YOU USE?**

To obtain a COC you need to complete the N-600 Application. Additional information and the form can be obtained through the USCIS website at: <https://www.uscis.gov/n-600>

### **2. WHAT IS THE COST FOR A COC?**

The fee for the N-600 (and the N-600K) Application on behalf of an adopted child is currently \$550. (\$600 for a foreign born biological child) but will be increasing to \$1170 on December 23, 2016. See <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/our-fees> for list of forms and fee increases that will take place on December 23, 2016.)

### **3. WHAT DOCUMENTS DO YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT WITH THE N-600 APPLICATION?**

- If you have finalized or readopted in a state court, a copy of the adoption order issued from the state court.
- If you change your child's name as part of the U.S. state adoption finalization, state the new name in Part 1 A of the Application and indicate that the name was changed pursuant to the adoption decree.
- The filing fee and the required two photographs.
- Most of the USCIS publications state that you do not need to submit documents that it already has in its file, such as your child's foreign birth certificate, etc., unless requested specifically by the USCIS.
- While the CIS should have this in its file, you should also provide evidence that your child entered the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident. This can be shown through producing either the

child's lawful permanent resident alien card or the child's foreign country passport with the I-551 stamp indicating the immigration visa classification, for example, "IR4".

- You only need to submit copies of the documents. Do not submit originals unless you are specifically asked to.
- The fee should be paid by certified check or money order made payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. You should send the submission through a delivery service that can be tracked, for example, Federal Express.

#### **4. WHAT IF YOUR CHILD MET THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CCA WHEN HE OR SHE WAS YOUNG BUT NEVER GOT THE COC -- CAN HE OR SHE STILL GET A COC AFTER HE OR SHE BECOMES AN ADULT?**

Yes. Once your child becomes a USC under the CCA, your child remains a USC after becoming an adult and there is no time limit on when he or she can apply for the COC.

Please note that these are general comments and are not intended to be comprehensive. They are not legal advice nor should they be relied upon as legal advice. They are based on various publications and information that may be reviewed on the USCIS, Department of State and related websites, applicable law and my experience. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need assistance.

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