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# Providing Documentation of Citizenship for Medicaid

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In the past, if you had Medicaid or applied for Medicaid, you had to declare on paper that you were a U.S. citizen or national, or that you were a “Qualified Alien.” All States have required that you be able to document Qualified Alien Status, and some States have required you to document citizenship status.

## What is changing?

Congress passed a new law. Beginning on July 1, 2006, all people who get Medicaid or people who apply for Medicaid must be able to document that they are U.S. citizens or nationals. If you are enrolled in Medicare or receive SSI you will not be affected by this new law.

## What kind of documentation do I need?

**The best way to document 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 documents, you will need two documents, one document to show you are a citizen and one document to show who you are.)*

**Document you are a citizen with:**

- Your birth certificate, or
  - A Report or Certification of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen (Form FS-240 or FS-545), or
  - U.S. Citizen I.D. card (DHS Form I-197), or
  - Adoption Papers, or
  - Military Record.
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## **Show who you are with:**

- Your picture on your current State driver's license or State identity card, or
- School identification card, or
- A Federal, State or Local government identification card, or
- A U.S. Military identification card.

## **What should I do if I don't have any of these things?**

- Check with Medicaid about other ways to document you are a citizen and to show who you are,
- Tell Medicaid why you can't get documents, and
- Give Medicaid any documents you have.

*(Each document you provide must be an original or a copy certified by the Agency that has the original. You cannot use a photocopy or a notarized copy of your document.)*

## **How much time do I have to show this documentation to Medicaid?**

Medicaid must give you a reasonable amount of time to get your documents. Check with Medicaid to see exactly how much time you have to get your documents.

## **What if I still have questions?**

If you still have questions, contact Medicaid, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-1048. Information is also available on the [cms.hhs.gov](http://cms.hhs.gov) web site.

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# PROVIDING DOCUMENTATION OF CITIZENSHIP FOR MEDICAID

A new Federal law is in place to get Medicaid. You must show that you are a U.S. citizen and who you are. If you already have Medicaid or are applying for Medicaid, you will be asked to document your U.S. citizenship and identity in order to keep your Medicaid. However, if you are enrolled in Medicare or receive SSI you will not be affected by this new law.

## **The best way to show that you are a citizen and who you are is with one of these:**

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

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***or, you can***

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***and***

## **Show who you are with:**

- ★ Your picture on your current State driver's license or State identity card, or
- ★ School identification card, or
- ★ A Federal, State or Local government identification card, or
- ★ A U.S. Military identification card.

\* Even if you don't have any of the documents listed, there are other ways to show Medicaid who you are and that you are a U.S. citizen. Be sure to tell Medicaid why you need to use another kind of document when you apply for Medicaid.