§ 322.3 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 possessions 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 in Behalf of An Adopted Child by U.S. citizen adoptive parent(s). The application must be filed with the filing fee required in §103.7(b)(1) of this chapter. The United States 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 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,
§ 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, an appeal must be filed within 30 days of service of the decision. After an application for a certificate of citizenship has been denied and the time for appeal has expired, a second application submitted by the same individual shall be rejected and the applicant will be instructed to submit a motion for reopening or reconsideration in accordance with 8 CFR 103.5. The motion shall be accompanied by the rejected application and the fee specified in 8 CFR 103.7. A decision shall be issued with notification of appeal rights in all certificate of citizenship cases, including any case denied due to the applicant’s failure to prosecute the application.