

## New Citizenship and Identity Verification Requirements for Medicaid

Due to changes included in the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, many individuals will be required to provide proof of citizenship, nationality, and identity when they apply or complete a review (or re-determination) for Medicaid benefits on or after July 1, 2006.

**Be Advised:** People who are eligible for Medicare and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are exempt from the new proof of citizenship, nationality and identity requirement.

A hierarchical approach is used to verify citizenship. If an applicant or recipient presents evidence from the listing of primary documentation, no other information will be required. When such evidence cannot be obtained, the next tier of acceptable forms of verification should be used. An attempt to obtain primary documentation should be made before continuing to secondary, third or fourth level lists. Secondary, third, and fourth level documentation also require verification of identity.

### Primary Documents

- Current or expired U.S. passport (not limited passports)
- Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570)
- Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561)

### Secondary Documents (also requires verification of identity)

- U.S. public birth record showing birth in one of the U.S. states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Swain's Island, Puerto Rico if born on or after January 13, 1941, Virgin Islands of the U.S. if born on or after January 17, 1917, Northern Mariana Islands if born after November 4, 1986, or Guam if born on or after April 10, 1899
- A U.S. birth certificate or data match with a State Vital Statistics Agency
- Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350)
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545)
- United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179)
- American Indian Card (I-872)
- Northern Mariana Identification Card (I-873)
- Final Adoption Decree
- Evidence of civil service employment by the U.S. government
- Official military record

### Third Level Documents (also requires verification of identity)

- Extract of hospital record on hospital letterhead indicating a U.S. place of birth established at the time of the person's birth and was created at least 5 years before the initial application date (for children under 16, the document must have been created near the time of birth or 5 years before the date of application)

- Life or health or other insurance record showing a U.S. place of birth and was created at least 5 years before the initial application date

#### ***Fourth Level Documents (also requires verification of identity)***

- Federal or State census record
- Seneca Indian tribal census record
- Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal census record
- U.S. State vital Statistics official notification of birth registration
- Statement signed by the physician or midwife who was in attendance at the time of birth
- An amended/delayed U.S. public record that is amended/delayed more than 5 years after the person's birth
- Institutional admission papers from a nursing home, skilled nursing care facility or other institution indicating a U.S. place of birth and was created at least 5 years before the initial application date
- Medical (clinic, doctor, or hospital) record indicating a U.S. place of birth and was created at least 5 years before the initial application date
- Written Affidavit (only used in rare circumstances) by two individuals of whom one is not related to the applicant/recipient and who have personal knowledge of the event(s) establishing the applicants or recipient's claim of citizenship. The person(s) making the affidavit must be able to provide verification of his/her own citizenship and identity for the affidavit to be accepted. The affidavit should be signed under penalty of perjury. A third affidavit from the applicant/recipient or other knowledgeable individual must also be obtained explaining why documentary evidence does not exist. (Affidavits may be used to verify citizenship or identity of a child, but not both)

#### ***Evidence of Identity (Any form of identity verification listed below is acceptable. The hierarchical approach is not required)***

- A state driver's license and the Georgia Identification Card for Voting Purposes issued by the Department of Driver's Services
- Certificate of Indian Blood or other U.S. American Indian/Alaska Native tribal document
- U.S. military card or draft record
- Identification card issued by federal, state, or local government agencies or entities either containing a picture or identifying information such as name, date of birth, sex, height, color of eyes, and address (includes the Georgia Identification card issued by the County Voter Registrar's office.
- Military dependent's identification card, if it contains a photograph
- United States Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card
- School identification card with a photograph
- U.S. passport issued with limitations
- Data matches or documents from law enforcement or corrections agencies including Youth Detention Centers. The date and place of birth of the individual must be included.

**Note:** For individuals under age 16 who are unable to produce a document listed above, the following documents are acceptable to establish identity:

- School record that shows date and place of birth and parent(s) name
- Clinic, doctor or hospital record showing date of birth
- Daycare or nursery school record showing date and place of birth
- Affidavit signed under penalty of perjury by a parent or guardian attesting to their child's identity (affidavit may be used to verify citizenship or identity, but not both). Only one affidavit is required for verification of a child's identity and the affiant must be a U.S. citizen. The affiant may be the Social Services case manager assigned the related Social Services case.