

**APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP**  
**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

If a child of a U.S. citizen has secured lawful permanent resident status prior to age eighteen (18) then they may be a U.S. citizen by operation of law. This part of the law has changed several times and is dependent in part on an individual's date of birth. In order to secure evidence of U.S. citizenship the person can apply for a Certificate of U.S. Citizenship through USCIS. The USCIS Atlanta Office states it is taking ten months to adjudicate such applications.

A person under these circumstances can apply directly to the State Department for a U.S. Passport and avoid any further contact with USCIS. The State Department adjudication process is a significantly faster and smoother experience.