




# Citizenship for Korean Adoptees to U.S.



To be entitled to all rights as a citizen, overseas adoptees must acquire citizenship of their adopted country.

As overseas adoptees to the U.S. are not automatically granted the U.S. citizenship at the time of their adoption, it is crucial for them to confirm their citizenship status. The South Korean government continues to identify adoptees' citizenship acquisition status to ensure the rights of overseas adoptees.



## Confirming U.S. Citizenship Status

Under the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, Korean adoptees who entered the U.S. on IR-3 visa were automatically granted U.S. citizenship if they were under the age of 18 on February 27, 2001. Therefore, adoptees who were not on IR-3 visa or adoptees who were 18 or older on February 27, 2001 should confirm their citizenship status. For more information, please visit the page "U.S. Citizenship for an Adopted Children" on the USCIS website at : <https://www.uscis.gov/adoption>

## Proof of U.S. Citizenship

Only Certificate of Citizenship/Naturalization and U.S. passports prove one has acquired citizenship. Once citizen status has been confirmed, adoptees are expected to keep the following documents.



### Certificate of Citizenship/Naturalization

If you were granted U.S. citizenship under Child Citizenship Act of 2000 and had not received the Certificate of Citizenship, please fill and file the form N-600 to issue the Certificate of Citizenship. If you had lost your Certificate of Citizenship or Certificate of Naturalization, fill and file the form N-565 to reissue your certificate. For more information, please visit the USCIS website: <https://www.uscis.gov/forms>

### U.S. Passport

All documents required for the issuance of U.S. passport are listed on the U.S. Department of State website:

<https://travel.state.gov/passport>

U.S. passport remains valid for 10 years for adults and 5 years for minors under the age of 16. Once expired, the U.S. passport no longer confirms the holder's citizenship status.

※ U.S. issued state birth certificates and U.S. Social Security Cards are not proof of citizenship.

### Filing the "Request of Original Documents" form (G-884)

USCIS produces a file for all foreigners immigrating to the U.S. The file contains all the documents that were included in the immigrant visa application. Files submitted to apply for U.S. citizenship will also be in this file. Using the form G-884 : "Request of Original Documents", Adoptees may request copies of any documentation in their file. For more information, visit the USCIS website at : <https://www.uscis.gov/G-884>

## Acquiring U.S. Citizenship

If adoptees haven't acquired the U.S. Citizenship yet, they should apply for it.



### For adoptees under the age of 18

Korean adoptees who did not enter on IR-3 visa must be re-adopted in the U.S. to complete the adoption process. The Re-adoption process must be completed before adoptees turn 18 in order for citizenship to be obtained. Once they are readopted in their state of residence, citizenship is automatic.

### Adult adoptees

Adoptees over the age of 18 who do not hold U.S. citizenship must go through a naturalization process to acquire U.S. citizenship.

To file for naturalization, download and complete the form N-400, Application for Naturalization from the USCIS website : <https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>

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### Eligibility for Naturalization

- One has been a permanent resident for at least five years
- One has been a permanent resident for three years before filing as the spouse of a U.S. citizen
- One has qualifying service in the U.S. armed forces

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Above mentioned individuals must also meet all other eligibility requirements. For more information, visit USCIS website: <https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/citizenship-through-naturalization> or call USCIS at: +1-800-375-5283

※ Korean adoptees who are on legal permanent resident status may contact the Korean embassy or consulates to be issued a Korean passport should you need one before acquiring U.S. citizenship.

## Organizations Supporting U.S. Citizenship Acquisition



Korea Adoption Services funds some of local organizations listed below, promoting the passing of the “Adoption Citizenship Act”. This bill would grant retroactive U.S. citizenship to all Korean adoptees.

Below are some organizations that offer referral services, assist with the citizenship application, and promote legislative activities for Korean American adoptees without the U.S. citizenship.

Should you have issues with U.S. citizenship, you may contact organizations below to receive more information.

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### Adoptee Rights Campaign (ARC)

✉ [Joy.alessi@adopteerightscampaign.org](mailto:Joy.alessi@adopteerightscampaign.org)

🏠 <https://adopteerightscampaign.org>

### National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC)

✉ [becky@nakasec.org](mailto:becky@nakasec.org)

🏠 <https://nakasec.org>

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## Adoptee Citizenship Act (ACA)



The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018 is a bill that proposes granting retroactive U.S. citizenship to all foreign born adoptees, regardless of when they were born.

The bill was introduced in Congress in March, 2018.

If the bill is passed, adoptees who were not subject to the Child Citizenship Act will automatically acquire the U.S. citizenship. Please help get this bill passed by supporting the organizations above with their campaigns.

## Korean American Adoptees Planning to Reside in Korea



### F-4 Visa

A F-4 Visa is available for individuals of foreign nationality who had once possessed Korean citizenship. With a F-4 visa, adoptees may engage in almost all employment activities, except those requiring manual labor.

F-4 visas can be applied for from both Korea and abroad.

### F-4 Visa application process

#### 1 Renounce Korean Citizenship

To be eligible for F-4 visa, adoptees must renounce their Korean citizenship at a Korean embassy/consulate or local immigration office before applying for F-4. You may contact your adoption agency to confirm if the renunciation of your Korean citizenship was made.

※ Adoptees lose their Korean citizenship automatically once they obtain U.S. citizenship. Renunciation of Korean citizenship is an administrative process that must be completed prior to applying for an F-4 visa.

#### 2 Apply for an F-4 Visa

Prepare all documents needed for the application such as the application form for the visa, U.S. passport and submit the required documents to the Korean embassy/consulate or immigration office.

#### 3 File a Domestic Residence Report

Upon entering Korea with an F-4 visa, adoptees must register their address in Korea by filing a Domestic Residence Report to obtain the Residence Report Card (F-4 ID Card). Adoptees must register in person at the immigration office located under the jurisdiction of the address they intend to register.

## Dual Citizenship

Adoptees who wish to obtain Korean citizenship while keeping their U.S. citizenship may acquire dual citizenship. The process for Dual Citizenship can only be completed in Korea and requires the adoptees to hold a valid F-4 visa. Since holding dual citizenship incurs benefits but also duties such as mandatory military service for males so please consider this before trying to acquire dual citizenship.

### Dual citizenship acquisition process

#### 1 Reinstatement of Korean Nationality

Submit all documents needed for the application, such as the Reinstatement of Nationality Application form, U.S. passport in person to the immigration office of nationality department.

#### 2 Oath as a Korean Citizen

As from December 20, 2018, you must recite the oath of Korean citizenship and receive a certificate of nationality.

#### 3 Pledge not to use the foreign citizenship

Within a year after their Korean nationality is reinstated, adoptees must sign and submit the pledge not to exercise their foreign citizenship in Korea at the same office where the reinstatement of Korean nationality was applied.

#### 4 Issue Resident Registration Card(주민등록증) and Passport

Take the receipt of the approved pledge to a community center near your registered address and issue a resident registration card. Once the resident registration card is issued, adoptees may apply for their Korean passport and must use Korean passport when leaving Korea.

## Obligatory Military Service

Before applying for dual citizenship, please be aware that male applicants under the age of 38 are subjected to obligatory military service. As exemptions may apply to some individuals, please contact Global Overseas Adoptees' Link(G.O.A.'L) at [f4@goal.or.kr](mailto:f4@goal.or.kr) to get some information regarding your specific case.

## Documents required to apply for F-4 visa/dual citizenship

- U.S. passport, Certificate of Citizenship/Naturalization, application form, and other documents are required to apply for an F4 visa or dual citizenship. For the list of documents needed, please contact Korean embassy/consulates, Hi Korea website : [https://www.hikorea.go.kr/pt/main\\_en.pt](https://www.hikorea.go.kr/pt/main_en.pt) or immigration contact center +82-1345
- Korean Family Relations Certificate (가족관계증명서), Korean Basic Certificate (기본증명서), or Korean Deleted Family Census Register (제적등본) : These verification documents can be issued at the community center or the Korean consulate located under the jurisdiction of your registered Korean address. These forms must contain the information about the renouncement of Korean citizenship. To issue these documents, adoptees must know their Korean names and the registered address and these can be confirmed with the adoptee's adoption certificate.
- Adoption Certificate : Contact your Korean adoption agency to issue the original adoption certificate. If you don't know about your adoption agency, please contact Korea Adoption Services. (Contact information for adoption agencies and Korea Adoption Services is listed below.)
- If the name on your U.S. passport is not the same as what's registered on your Family Relations Certificate, Basic Certificate, or Deleted Family Census Register, a legal document is needed to certify the name change. To do so, the adoptee must submit the form "Same Name Verification Form" and "Petition for Name Change". For those whose name changed after adoption or marriage, you must submit supporting documents, such as Adoption Certificate or Marriage Certificate.
- U.S. Certificate of Citizenship or Certificate of Naturalization : You must bring the original copy of the certificate and have it translated

## Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (G.O.A.'L)

Korea Adoption Services funds Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (G.O.A.'L), an organization led by adoptees in Korea. G.O.A.'L supports adoptees with attaining F-4 visa or reinstating Korean nationality. Please contact G.O.A.'L by email : [f4@goal.or.kr](mailto:f4@goal.or.kr) or visit their website at : <https://www.goal.or.kr>

## KOREA ADOPTION SERVICES

Korea Adoption Services(KAS) is an organization under the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Based on Article 26 of the Special Adoption Law, KAS was established in August 2012 for the purposes below :

- Providing post adoption services to ensure a safe environment for adoptees
  - Managing the integrated database of adoption information used for Family Search
  - Conducting researches to develop better adoption policies
- Establishing a cooperative system among the government, KAS, adoption agencies, and other adoption-related organizations.



+82-2-6943-2600  
 familysearch@kadoption.or.kr  
<https://www.kadoption.or.kr/en/>  
 47 Kyeonggidae-ro Jinyang bldg.7th floor Seodaemun-gu Seoul Korea, 03752

## Contact Information for Related Organizations

### Korean Government Agencies

Ministry of Health and Welfare	+82-129	<a href="http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/index.jsp">www.mohw.go.kr/eng/index.jsp</a>
Ministry of Justice	+82-2-2110-3000	<a href="http://www.moj.go.kr/HP/ENG/index.do">www.moj.go.kr/HP/ENG/index.do</a> webmaster@moj.go.kr
Korea Immigration Service	+82-2-6908-1345	<a href="http://www.immigration.go.kr/HP/IMM80/index.do">www.immigration.go.kr/HP/IMM80/index.do</a>
Hi Korea	+82-1345	<a href="http://www.hikorea.go.kr/pt/main_en.pt">www.hikorea.go.kr/pt/main_en.pt</a>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	+82-2-2100-2114	<a href="http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/index.do">www.mofa.go.kr/eng/index.do</a>
Military Manpower Administration	+82-1588-9090	<a href="http://www.mma.go.kr/eng/index.do">www.mma.go.kr/eng/index.do</a>

### Korean Diplomatic Offices in the U.S.

Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the U.S.A.	+1-202-939-5600	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-en/index.do</a>
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Chicago	+1-312-822-9485	<a href="http://consular.usa@mofa.go.kr">consular.usa@mofa.go.kr</a> <a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-chicago-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-chicago-en/index.do</a> chicago@mofa.go.kr
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in San Francisco	+1-415-921-2251	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-sanfrancisco-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-sanfrancisco-en/index.do</a> consularsf@mofa.go.kr
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Seattle	+1-206-441-1011	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-seattle-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-seattle-en/index.do</a> seattle0404@mofa.go.kr
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in New York	+1-646-674-6000	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-newyork-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-newyork-en/index.do</a> kcg_ny@mofa.go.kr
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles	+1-213-700-1147	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-losangeles-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-losangeles-en/index.do</a> consul-la@mofa.go.kr
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Boston	+1-617-641-2830	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-boston-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-boston-en/index.do</a> kcg_boston@mofa.go.kr
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta	+1-404-522-1611	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-atlanta-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-atlanta-en/index.do</a> atlanta@mofa.go.kr
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Houston	+1-713-961-0186	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-houston-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-houston-en/index.do</a> Con-hu@mofa.go.kr
Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Honolulu	+1-808-595-6109	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-honolulu-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-honolulu-en/index.do</a> consulatehi@mofa.go.kr
Consular Office of the Republic of Korea in Dallas	+1-972-701-0180	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-dallas-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-dallas-en/index.do</a> koreadallas@mofa.go.kr
Consular Office of the Republic of Korea in Anchorage	+1-907-339-7955	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-anchorage-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-anchorage-en/index.do</a> anchorage@mofa.go.kr
Consular Office of the Republic of Korea in Hagatna	+1-671-647-6488	<a href="http://overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-hagatna-en/index.do">overseas.mofa.go.kr/us-hagatna-en/index.do</a> kconsul_guam@mofa.go.kr

### Adoption Agencies

Eastern Social Welfare Society	+82-2-332-3941	<a href="http://eng.eastern.or.kr">eng.eastern.or.kr</a> postadoption@eastern.or.kr
Holt Korea	+82-2-331-7015	<a href="http://www.holt.or.kr/eng/pasc@holt.or.kr">www.holt.or.kr/eng/pasc@holt.or.kr</a>
Korea Social Service, Inc.	+82-2-908- 9191	<a href="http://www.kssinc.org/eng/main">www.kssinc.org/eng/main</a> kssinc@kssinc.org
Social Welfare Society, Inc.	+82-2-552-7740	<a href="http://www.sws.or.kr/english">www.sws.or.kr/english</a> swspas@sws.or.kr

### Other Related Organizations

Adoptee Rights Campaign		<a href="http://adopteerightscampaign.org">adopteerightscampaign.org</a> Joy.alessi@adopteerightscampaign.org
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium		<a href="http://nakasec.org">nakasec.org</a> becky@nakasec.org
Global Overseas Adoptees' Link	+82-2-325-6522	<a href="http://www.goal.or.kr">www.goal.or.kr</a> sg@goal.or.kr