

Through no fault of their own, some people adopted internationally lack citizenship, because the *Child Citizenship Act of 2000* granted automatic citizenship in most international adoptions, but not all.

Their family, their friends, their schools, and their careers are all here. Their citizenship should be, too.

## Why Don't All Adopted Individuals Receive Automatic Citizenship?

Adopted children who travel on some visa types (IR-4 or IH-4) do not receive automatic citizenship. These visas are issued to children whose adoptions are finalized in the United States.

If a child is not automatically granted citizenship because of their visa type, adoptive parents must take extra steps to ensure that their child receives citizenship. Many adoptive parents were unaware of or did not understand this requirement.

### » IH vs. IR

Both IH-4 and IR-4 visas are issued to children traveling to the U.S. to be adopted. IH-4 visas pertain to adoptions from Hague Convention countries, while IR-4 visas are for non-Hague adoptions.

## How Do They Find Out They Are Not Citizens?

Adopted persons can be shocked to discover they lack U.S. citizenship when they...

- Fill out a FAFSA
- Apply to college
- Join the Armed Services
- Apply for a passport
- Commit a minor crime

People who were adopted internationally who have discovered later in life that they lack citizenship can take the necessary steps to finalize their citizenship as an adult, but the process is significantly complex and can be quite costly.

## Legislative Loophole Left Many Adoptees Out

The *Child Citizenship Act of 2000* addressed a portion of the problem by providing automatic citizenship for certain internationally adopted children of U.S. citizens who were under age 18 at the time the bill was enacted.

Adopted people who were 18 or older on February 27, 2001 were not covered by the *Child Citizenship Act of 2000*.

### » 15,000

NCFA estimates that there are as many as 15,000–18,000 adopted individuals who can benefit from a legislative fix.

## How Can We Make a Change?

Pass H.R. 1593 and S. 967 which provides citizenship to a limited number of adoptees who came to the U.S. under lawful admission, but whose parents failed to complete the citizenship process in a timely manner.

Learn more and take action at  
[adopteecitizenshipact.org](https://adopteecitizenshipact.org)



National Council For Adoption

Passionately committed to the belief that every child deserves to thrive in a nurturing, permanent family, National Council For Adoption's mission is to meet the diverse needs of children, expectant and birth parents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, and all those touched by adoption through global advocacy, education, research, legislative action, and collaboration.

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