



GUIDE TO SELECTED U.S. TRAVEL AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

Prepared by the Homeland Security Investigations Forensic Laboratory



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** General Information
- 4** U.S. Passports
 - U.S. Passport
 - Emergency Passport
 - U.S. Passport Card
- 7** Birth Certificates
 - Consular Report of Birth Abroad
 - Certification of Report of Birth
- 9** Certificates of Naturalization
- 11** Resident Alien Card
- 12** Permanent Resident Cards
- 15** Employment Authorization Cards
- 17** U.S. Travel Documents
 - Permit to Re-Enter
 - Refugee Travel Document
- 18** Nonimmigrant Visa
- 19** Border Crossing Cards
- 22** Arrival/Departure Record
- 23** Notice of Action
- 24** Immigrant Visas and ADIT Stamps
- 25** Trusted Traveler Programs
 - FAST
 - Global Entry
 - Nexus
 - SENTRI
- 26** Social Security Cards
- 27** Ordering Information
- 28** Documents by Issuing Authority
- 28** Helpful Websites

This guide is intended to assist those tasked with examining government travel and employment authorization documents. It contains color images of the most commonly used documents, but it is not comprehensive. There are earlier valid versions of some illustrated documents, and other less common documents are not illustrated here.

Because the images are reproductions, the exact size and color may deviate from the original. Do not make identifications based on size and/or color alone.

For any questions regarding the authenticity of the documents shown in this guide, please contact the nearest U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office. See www.ice.gov/contact for contact information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

In accordance with the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, any person born in and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States is a citizen of the United States at birth. U.S. citizenship may also be acquired through DERIVATION from a U.S. citizen parent when children are born abroad or through NATURALIZATION after meeting the necessary residency requirements. All persons not citizens or nationals of the U.S. are aliens, who are generally classified as PERMANENT RESIDENTS (immigrants), NONIMMIGRANTS, or UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS.

PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS enjoy almost all the same rights as U.S. citizens. This status may be obtained through a number of different procedures and, unless taken away administratively, is granted for life. Aliens with permanent residency must carry evidence of their status.

NONIMMIGRANT ALIENS are admitted to the U.S. for a temporary period of time and for a specific purpose, most often as tourists. There are different categories of non-immigrants, and they are identified through letter/number symbols (such as “B-2” tourist). Nonimmigrants are also required to present evidence of their lawful status in the U.S.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS are those who do not maintain legal presence in the United States. They may have crossed the border illegally and/or been smuggled into the country, or they may have violated their non-immigrant status by accepting unauthorized employment, remaining longer than permitted, or committing some other violation. Some of these aliens purchase counterfeit documents or assume another person’s identity by using fraudulently obtained genuine documents.

For more information on resident and citizenship status, visit www.uscis.gov.

UNITED STATES PASSPORT CARD

The U.S. Department of State began issuing the new U.S. Passport Card in 2008 to facilitate travel into the U.S. by land and sea from Canada, Mexico and much of the Caribbean. The passport card provides proof of identity and U.S. citizenship.



2008 version



Reverse

A modified version of the card was released in 2010. The most notable difference is the addition of a secondary image of the card bearer to the front of the card. The card stock was further modified in 2012, though it did not change the overall appearance of the card. Previous versions remain valid until their expiration dates.



2010/2012 version



Reverse

All versions of the card contain laser-engraved biographic data, some of which is tactile and discernible by touch. Other features include a tactile eagle design and an optically variable device near the bearer's primary image, and color-changing ink on the reverse side of the card.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Most U.S. citizens acquire their citizenship from birth within the United States. Birth certificates are issued by individual state, county and municipal jurisdictions. A person born outside U.S. territory may acquire U.S. citizenship from birth if at least one parent is a citizen, though this is subject to additional provisions of law. When parents report the birth of a child to a U.S. consular office abroad, the U.S. Department of State issues a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (Form FS-240). This form serves as proof of U.S. citizenship. The U.S. Department of State may have issued a Certification of Report of Birth (Form DS-1350) subsequently to confirm that a birth was registered overseas. This form is no longer issued, but existing forms remain valid.

159-4369501

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Consular Report of Birth Abroad
of a Citizen of the United States of America

This is to certify that VOID SAMPLE ONLY VOID VOID sex Female
born at Chatsk'cha, Okinawa Japan
on July 4, 2010 VOID acquired United States citizenship at birth as established by documentary evidence presented
to the Consular Service of the United States at Naha, Japan
on September 1, 2010

PARENTS

VOID VOID VOID SAMPLE ONLY
Date of Birth July 4, 1980 Date of Birth July 4, 1980

(SEAL)

Consular Official
Consul VOID
Naha, Japan
September 1, 2010

A Consular Report of Birth is proof of United States citizenship by law. DS-1350 (2/04)

Form FS-240

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Certification of Report of Birth
of a United States Citizen

This is to certify that the birth of VOID SAMPLE ONLY VOID VOID sex MALE
born at SOMENESS UYUFA
on APRIL 1, 2003 VOID was registered with the Consular Service of the United States and a
Consular Report of Birth was issued at BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN
on OCTOBER 3, 2003

PARENTS

VOID VOID VOID SAMPLE ONLY
Date of Birth JANUARY 1, 1975 Date of Birth DECEMBER 31, 1975

WILLIAM WOODRUF CLINTON
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.
NOVEMBER 22, 2010

WARNING: This certificate is not valid if it has been altered in any way whatsoever or if it does not bear the signed seal of the office of issuance.

Form DS-1350

CONSULAR REPORT OF BIRTH ABROAD

The U.S. Department of State began issuing the Consular Report of Birth Abroad (Form FS-240) in a new format in January 2011. The Certification of Report of Birth (Form DS-1350) is no longer issued. Old forms have no expiration date and continue to be legally valid.

The Consular Report of Birth Abroad is similar in quality to banknotes. It is printed on watermarked security paper and bears an embossed gold-colored Great Seal of the United States in the upper portion of the form.



Form FS-240 (2011 version)

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

Many people obtain U.S. citizenship by going through the process of naturalization. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issues a Certificate of Naturalization (Form N-550) to people who obtain citizenship in this manner.

There have been many versions of these certificates. Most versions issued by USCIS have similar designs with the Great Seal of the United States in the background. Some bear photographs printed onto the paper, while others have photographs attached to the certificate. Versions of the N-550 issued by USCIS are printed on watermarked security paper, and the bearer's image is endorsed with a U.S. Department of Homeland Security embossing seal. Older versions of the Certificate of Naturalization may also be encountered. Security features vary from version to version.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

No. 00000000

USCIS Registration No. A000000000

Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization:

Date of birth: JULY 19, 1957

Sex: MALE

Height: 6 feet 1 inches

Marital status: SINGLE

Country of former nationality: AMERICAN SAMOA

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

I certify that the description given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.

(Complete and true signature of holder)

Be it known that, pursuant to an application filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security

at: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The Secretary having found that:

AGATHA ANOTHER-CASE

residing at: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

having complied in all respects with all of the applicable provisions of the naturalization laws of the United States, being entitled to be admitted as a citizen of the United States, and having taken the oath of allegiance at a ceremony conducted by

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

at: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND on: APRIL 04, 2011

such person is admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

Lori Scialaba, Acting Director

U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

ALTERATION OR MISUSE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE AND PUNISHABLE BY LAW

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FORM N-550 (REV. 10/10)

Form N-550

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION - JANUARY 2018

In early 2018, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services began issuing redesigned versions of the Certificate of Naturalization featuring the Statue of Liberty in the background. The updated certificates show a revision date of 10/17. As with older versions of the certificate, the bearer's photograph may be attached to the form or printed onto it. The bearer's image continues to be endorsed with a DHS embossing seal.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. **S1234567890**

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

U.S.C.I.S. Registration No. **A123 456 789**

Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization:
Date of birth: **FEBRUARY 05, 1955**
Sex: **MALE**
Height: **6 feet 01 inches**
Marital status: **SINGLE**
Country of former nationality: **AUSTRALIA**

I certify that the description given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.

(Complete in **VOID** of holder)

Be it known that, pursuant to an application filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security
at: **BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

The Secretary being found that:
JOHN DOE
residing at: **CHELTENHAM, MARYLAND**

having complied in all respects with all of the applicable provisions of the naturalization laws of the United States, being entitled to be admitted as a citizen of the United States, and having taken the oath of allegiance at a ceremony conducted by
U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES
at: **BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA** on: **JANUARY 04, 2018**

such person is admitted as a citizen of the United States of America.

VOID

2.FAC

U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

ALTERATION OR ABUSE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE AND PUNISHABLE BY LAW

FORM N-550 (REV. 10/17)

Form N-550 (2018 version)

RESIDENT ALIEN CARD

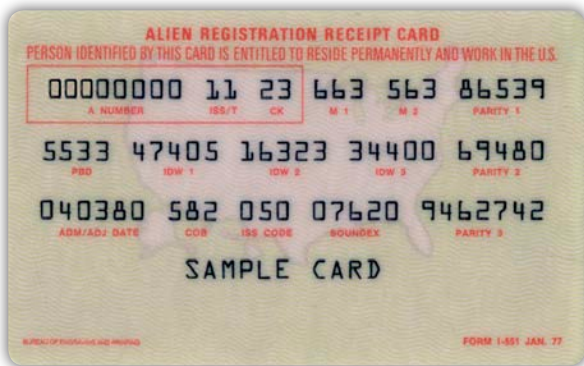
Residence cards are issued to aliens who have been granted permanent resident status in the United States. Permanent residents 18 and older are required to have this card in their possession at all times.

The first Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-151) was introduced in 1946. The Form I-151 is no longer acceptable as evidence of permanent residence.

The Resident Alien Card (Form I-551) was introduced in January 1977 and was phased in over a period of time. In addition to the photograph, it contained the bearer's signature and fingerprint. This version of Form I-551 generally did not contain an expiration date. USCIS recommends that bearers of cards without an expiration date apply to replace their cards with the current redesigned version.



Form I-551

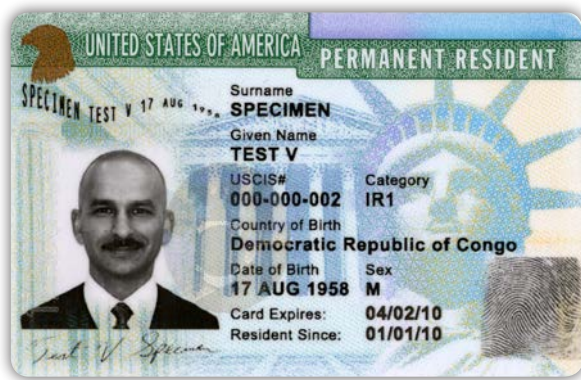


Reverse

PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD - MAY 2010

In May 2010, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services introduced a revised version of the Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551). The laser-engraved card includes a holographic feature over the right side of the photo zone and an eagle's head in the upper left of the card composed of color-shifting ink.

The optical memory stripe on the reverse is smaller than in previous versions, but still contains the same encoded information on the card bearer. The personalized etching showing the bearer's photo, name, signature, date of birth, alien registration number, card expiration date and card number has been enlarged compared to prior versions.



Form I-551 (2009 version)



Reverse

PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD - MAY 2017

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services introduced a new Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551) in May 2017. Enhancements to this version include three transparent stars, tactile features on the front of the card and holographic features on both front and back of the card. The reverse side no longer has an optical stripe.

All previous versions of the I-551 Permanent Resident Card will remain valid until the expiration date on the card.



Form I-551 (2017 version)



Reverse

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD - OCTOBER 2011

The Employment Authorization Card (Form I-766) is issued to aliens who have been granted permission to work in the U.S. for a specific period of time. The card may have different notations. Many cards are endorsed as “NOT VALID FOR REENTRY TO U.S.” and are used solely for employment in the U.S. Others may show “VALID FOR REENTRY TO U.S.” or “SERVES AS I-512 ADVANCE PAROLE” and may be used as travel documents.

The older version in circulation was introduced by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in October 2011. This laser-engraved card includes a holographic feature over the right side of the photo zone and a torch composed of color-shifting ink in the upper right side of the card.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA **EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD**

SPECIMEN TEST V 01 JAN 1920

Surname: **SPECIMEN**
Given Name: **TEST V**
USCIS#: **000-000-725** Category: **C09** Card#: **SRC0000000725**
Country of Birth: **Ethiopia**
Terms and Conditions: **None**
Date of Birth: **01 JAN 1920** Sex: **M**
Valid From: **01/01/80**
Card Expires: **05/10/11**
NOT VALID FOR REENTRY TO U.S.

Form I-766 (2011 version)

26000813 [Barcode]

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

This card is not evidence of U.S. citizenship or permanent residence. This document is void if altered, and may be revoked by the U.S. Government. The person identified is authorized to work in the U.S. for the validity of this card.

FORM I-766 Rev. (10-2014)

81 PO Box 85148E, Memphis, TN 37515-1488

**I AUSA0000007250SRC0000000725<<
2001012M1105108ETH<<<<<<<<<<<<<<1
SPECIMEN<<TEST<VOID<<<<<<<<<<<<<<**

Reverse

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD - MAY 2017

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services began issuing a redesigned version of Form I-766 in May 2017. The newer cards have the same notations reading “NOT VALID FOR REENTRY TO U.S.”, “VALID FOR REENTRY TO U.S.”, or “SERVES AS I-512 ADVANCE PAROLE” as older versions of the card.

Enhancements to this version of the card include three transparent stars, added tactile features and holographic features on both front and back of the card.



Form I-766 (2017 version)



Reverse

BORDER CROSSING CARD - MAY 1998

The U.S. Department of State issues the Border Crossing Card (Form DSP-150) to Mexican citizens only. The card serves as a nonimmigrant visa. The version introduced in May 1998 remains in circulation, and cards are valid for entry until they expire. The front of the card has a three-line machine-readable zone and a hologram. Bearers of this card are not entitled to live or work in the United States.

The optical memory stripe on the reverse side contains encoded cardholder information as well as a personalized etching which depicts the bearer's photo, name, date of birth and card expiration date.



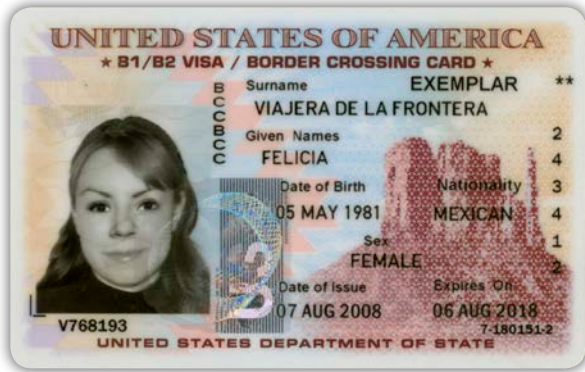
Form DSP-150 (1998 version)



Reverse

BORDER CROSSING CARD - 2008

An updated version of the Border Crossing Card (Form DSP-150) was introduced in 2008. It contains laser-engraved data, an optically variable device over the right side of the bearer's portrait and three lines of machine-readable coding on the reverse side. Different versions of the card have been issued, but they had only minor variations from the original version. Bearers of this card are not entitled to live or work in the United States.



Form DSP-150 (2008 version)



Reverse

BORDER CROSSING CARD - MAY 2014

The current version of the Border Crossing Card (Form DSP-150) was introduced in May 2014. It contains laser-engraved data, an optically variable device over the bearer's portrait, additional tactile features on the front of the card, and three lines of machine-readable coding on the reverse side. Bearers of this card are not entitled to live or work in the United States.



Form DSP-150 (2014 version)



Reverse

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE RECORD

When granted admission into the U.S. by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer at an authorized port of entry, an alien may be issued an Arrival/Departure Record (Form I-94), the bottom portion of which is stapled to a page in the alien's passport. This document shows how long the bearer may remain in the U.S. and the terms of admission. Form I-94, not the non-immigrant visa, serves as evidence of legal presence.

CBP has automated this process at air and sea ports of entry. Travelers receive an admission stamp on a passport page annotated with the date, class and period of admission, but no paper Form I-94. Instead the record is maintained electronically and can be verified at www.cbp.gov/I94.


Nationals of some countries may enter the U.S. without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program. They are permitted to remain in the U.S. up to 90 days but are not eligible for employment. They may have either an endorsed green Form I-94W or a passport endorsed with a CBP stamp to show evidence of legal presence in the United States.

Departure Number	
000000000 11	
Department of Homeland Security	
CBP I-94A (11/04) Departure Record	
Family Name	
SAMPLE	
First (Given) Name	Birth Date (Day Mo Yr)
SAMPLE	14 12 76
Country of Citizenship	
MEXICO	
20161204 US-VISIT 20161204 MULTIPLE	
See Other Side	STAPLE HERE

NOTICE OF ACTION

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may extend a period of admission or change a non-immigrant status after a Form I-94 has been issued. The approval for an extension or change of status is shown on an Notice of Action (Form I-797A).

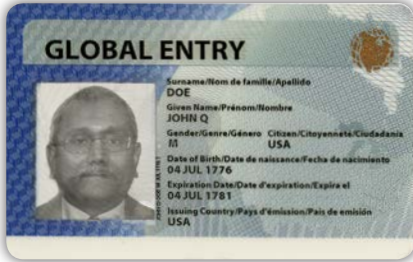
The lower portion of the form replaces the original Form I-94, but it does not require any endorsing stamp.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		
I-797A NOTICE OF ACTION DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES		
Receipt Number IOE300005007	Case Type T14 - APPLICATION FOR T NONIMMIGRANT STATUS	
Received Date 01/01/2012	Applicant Adams, John Quincy	
Issue Date 09/26/2017	Page 1 of 2	Residence A000 000 000 Doc. John
John Doe 123 Main Street Anytown DC 99999		Notice Type: Approval Notice Class: H1B Valid from 08/19/2016 to 08/19/2018
Your application for T-1 Nonimmigrant Classification has been approved. Attached below please find a completed Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record, indicating that you have been granted T Nonimmigrant Classification for a period of 4 years.		
EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION: You are authorized to work in the United States for the validity period of your T Nonimmigrant Classification. Your Employment Authorization Document will be mailed to you separately.		
ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS: Federal law provides that you may be eligible to adjust your status to that of a lawful permanent resident. A T-1 Nonimmigrant may submit an application for adjustment of status after he/she has been physically present in the United States for a continuous period of at least 1 year after the date he/she was admitted as a T-1 Nonimmigrant or after he/she has been physically present in the United States for a continuous period during the investigation or prosecution of the case of trafficking, provided that the Attorney General has determined the investigation or prosecution is complete.		
DERIVATIVE NONIMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION: You may request derivative T Nonimmigrant Classification for qualifying family members. To request derivative status, you must submit a Form I-914 with Supplement A in accordance with the instructions printed on the form. If you included qualifying family members on your original application, a notice of decision on the derivative application(s) will be mailed to you separately.		
DEPARTING FROM THE UNITED STATES: If you plan to depart the United States you must obtain permission to return to the United States before you leave this country by obtaining advance parole. If you do not obtain advance parole in advance of your departure, you may be unable to re-enter the United States, or you may be placed in removal.		
Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.		
Visa/Passport Service Center U. S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SVC 171 Lower Meriden Street Salem Albany VT 05479-0001		
Customer Service Telephone: 800-375-5283		
<small>PLEASE TEAR OFF HERE (PRINTED BELOW) AND SEND TO ORIGINAL I-94 AS APPLICABLE</small>		
Detach This Half for Personal Records		123456789 10
Receipt# IOE300005007		Receipt Number IOE300005007
I-94# 123456789 10		US Citizenship and Immigration Services
NAME Doe, John		
CLASS H1B		194 Departure Record
VALID FROM 08/19/2016 UNTIL Indefinitely (INDEF)		Applicant: Adams, John
APPLICANT Adams, John Quincy 100 Main Street Anytown DC 12345		14. Family Name Doe
		15. First (Given) Name John
		16. Date of Birth 01/01/1990
		17. Country of Citizenship Netherlands

Detach This Half for Personal Records		123456789 10
Receipt# IOE300005007		Receipt Number IOE300005007
I-94# 123456789 10		US Citizenship and Immigration Services
NAME Doe, John		
CLASS H1B		194 Departure Record
VALID FROM 08/19/2016 UNTIL Indefinitely (INDEF)		Applicant: Adams, John
APPLICANT Adams, John Quincy 100 Main Street Anytown DC 12345		14. Family Name Doe
		15. First (Given) Name John
		16. Date of Birth 01/01/1990
		17. Country of Citizenship Netherlands

TRUSTED TRAVELER PROGRAMS

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) maintains several trusted traveler programs which allow expedited border processing for pre-approved travelers. CBP issues cards to travelers who have registered for particular programs for border crossing purposes. Additional information on FAST, Global Entry, NEXUS and SENTRI may be found at www.cbp.gov.



SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

Although Social Security Cards are not immigration documents, they are mentioned here because they are often used as identification and to establish employment authorization.

Social Security Cards have been issued since 1936 and have been revised more than 30 times. Originally, the Social Security Card contained the seal of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In May 1980, the seal changed to that of the Department of Health and Human Services. In April 1995 the seal was changed again to that of the Social Security Administration. In October 1983, security features were added to the card. All Social Security Cards issued since October 1983 have been printed with raised (intaglio) printing and a signature line consisting of repeating microprint reading "SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION." In October 2007 additional features, including latent images and optically variable ink, were added to the card.




This card belongs to the Social Security Administration and you must return it if we ask for it.

If you find a card that isn't yours, please return it to:
Social Security Administration
P.O. Box 33008, Baltimore, MD 21290-3008

For any other Social Security business/information, contact your local Social Security office. If you write to the above address for any business other than returning a found card you will not receive a response.

Social Security Administration
Form SSA-3000 (08-2011)



G57960008

ORDERING INFORMATION

This guide has been prepared by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations Forensic Laboratory and may not be sold.

To order additional copies of the **Guide to Selected U.S. Travel and Identity Documents** (Form M-396) please complete the appropriate CBP form.

CBP Form 3039:

REQUEST FOR PRINTED MATERIAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY USE

Available for DHS employees only

Fillable pdf is on CBP Net under CBP Forms or search for “3039”

Submit button is in the lower right corner

CBP Form 262:

REQUEST FOR PRINTED MATERIAL PUBLIC / PRIVATE USE

Fillable pdf is on www.cbp.gov - search for “262”

Submit button is in the lower right corner

You can also mail the completed form to:

CBP National Distribution Center

6482 Corporate Drive

Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

or fax to:

(317) 290-3046

DOCUMENTS BY ISSUING AUTHORITY

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

- Certificate of Naturalization (Form N-550)
- Employment Authorization Card (Form I-766)
- Notice of Action (Form I-797)
- Permanent Resident Cards (Form I-551)
- U.S. Travel Document (Forms I-327 or I-571)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

- Arrival/Departure Record (Form I-94)
- Trusted Traveler Programs
 - FAST
 - Global Entry
 - NEXUS
 - SENTRI

U.S. Department of State

- Border Crossing Card (Form DSP-150)
- Certification of Report of Birth (Form DS-1350)
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (Form FS-240)
- Emergency Passport
- Immigrant Visas and ADIT Stamps
- Nonimmigrant Visa
- U.S. Passport Booklet
- U.S. Passport Card
- U.S. Visa

U.S. Social Security Administration

- Social Security Cards

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security – www.dhs.gov
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services – www.uscis.gov
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection – www.cbp.gov
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement – www.ice.gov
- U.S. Department of State – www.state.gov
- U.S. Social Security Administration – www.ssa.gov



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

Form M-396
2/2018