



MaineCare Proof of Citizenship and Identity Law

Citizenship Documentation for MaineCare Coverage

Federal law requires that many people who apply for MaineCare prove both their U.S. citizenship and their identity to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This law is for both adults and children.

If you are a citizen and have a Social Security Number, then DHHS will check with Social Security to make sure that you are a citizen. You will not have to give any other proof.

Not everyone must prove their citizenship

The law does NOT apply to everyone. The people who do **not** have to show documents to prove their citizenship and their identity are:

- People with Medicare, either now or in the past
- People with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), either now or in the past
- People with Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), either now or in the past
- Immigrants who are lawfully present in the U.S.
- Foster children

These people have already shown documents proving their citizenship or their immigration status. They have also proven their identity to state or federal government officials. These people do not have to do anything different to get or keep MaineCare.

Infants:

There are special rules for infants. If the pregnant parent is on MaineCare at the time of the birth, then the newborn will get MaineCare. They will have until they are one year old to prove citizenship and identity.

If the parent who gave birth to the newborn was not on MaineCare at the time of their birth, the newborn will have to prove citizenship and identity.

What documents do I need to prove my citizenship or identity?

Proving Citizenship & Identity in One Document:

You can prove both your citizenship and identity by showing one of the following documents:

- U.S. Passport.
- Certificate of Naturalization (DHS Forms N-550 or N-570).
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (DHS Forms N-560 or N-561).
- Tribal enrollment documents, evidencing membership or affiliation with a Federally recognized tribe.

Documents that Prove Only Citizenship:

You can prove your citizenship by showing one of the following documents:

- Birth certificate from a U.S. state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. territory.
- Final adoption decree showing the child's name and U.S. place of birth.
- Official military record of service that shows U.S. place of birth.
- U.S. Citizen ID card (DHS Form I-197 or I-179).
- Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen (Form FS-240).
- Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350) or Certification of Birth Issued by the Department of State (Form FS-545).

This is not a full list of all the ways you can prove citizenship. Call Maine Equal Justice at 1-866-626-7059 for more information.

Documents that Prove Only Identity:

You can prove your identity with one of the following documents (even if the document is expired):

- Driver's license or State ID.
- Native American tribal document.
- School ID card with photo.
- U.S. military card or draft record.
- Military dependent's ID card.
- U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner card.
- School records (if age 17 and younger).
- Affidavit (if age 17 and younger).*

* Children who do not have a document to prove identity can have a parent fill out a form called an affidavit. This will prove identity for that child (or children).

This is not a full list of documents that will prove identity. These are the most common

documents. Call Maine Equal Justice at 1-866-626-7059 for more information.

Help with Getting Maine Birth Certificates

If you were born in Maine, ask your DHHS eligibility specialist to see if they can check to see if there is a birth certificate for you at Maine Vital Records. You can also contact the Office of Vital Records yourself by phone or online:

- Phone: 1-888-664-9491
- Web site: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/data-research/vital-records/order/index.shtml>

What do you need to do if your citizenship or identity cannot be proved by Social Security?

First, make sure that DHHS sent the right information to Social Security. If that does not work, then you will have to prove **both** your citizenship and your identity. To do this, show DHHS original documents or certified copies. For example, get a certified copy of a birth certificate from the town or state where you were born.

Do I need to do this each year?

No. Once you have shown DHHS the documents that prove your citizenship and identity, you will not have to do it ever again in Maine. Even if you stop getting MaineCare, but sometime later you get MaineCare again, you will **not** have to show these documents again.