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 2011 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 research to develop better adoption policies

Contact Information for Related Organizations

Contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Health and Welfare for any inquiries.
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.

**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 in the form N-400 to issue the Certificate of Citizenship. If you had lost your Certificate of Citizenship or Certificate of Naturalization, fill in the form N-669 to renew 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, 5 years for minors under the age of 16. Once expired, the U.S. passport no longer confirms the holder's citizenship status.

> Filed with state birth certificates and U.S. Social Security cards are not proof of citizenship.

**Acquiring U.S. Citizenship**

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

- **For adoptees under the age of 18**
  - Korean adoptees who did not enter on B-3 visa must be re-admitted in the U.S. to complete the adoption process. The I-600 adoption process must be completed before adopting form N-18 in order for citizenship to be obtained. Once they are married in their state of residence, citizenship is automatic.

- **Adult adoptees**
  - After the age of 18 who do not hold U.S. citizenship must go through a naturalization process to acquire U.S. citizenship.
  - To begin, print, complete and submit the form N-400, Application for Naturalization from the USCIS website: https://www.uscis.gov/n-400

**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

**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, with the citizenship application, and promote legislative activities for Korean Adoption adoptees without the U.S. citizenship. Should you have issues with U.S. citizenship, you may contact organizations below to receive more information.

- Adoptive Rights Campaign (ARC)
  - https://www.arcusa.org

- Korean American Women's Service (KAWS)
  - https://www.kaws.org

- Korean American National Education Network (KANE)
  - https://www.kaneusa.org

**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 visit this website by supporting the organizations above with their campaigns.*

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**Korean American Adoptees Planning to Reside in Korea**

A F-4 Visa is available for individuals of foreign nationality who have been present Korean citizenship. With a F-4 visa, adoptees may engage in all employment activities, except those requiring a special visa. F-4 visa can be applied for from both Korea and abroad.

**F-4 Visa application process**

1. **Resource 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 visa. You can visit your adoption agency to confirm if the renunciation of your Korean citizenship was made.

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