Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 3, 2025 10:34:05 AM
From: [redacted] Représentants [redacted]
Sent: Tue, 29 Apr 2025 13:44:53
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: FW: Citizenship Inquiry - REP-B-2025-0500 - Due 26-May-25 / adoptions and biological link
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,
[redacted] **Immigration Representatives Mailbox.**
Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries but have provided the following information as guidance. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit the IRCC Web form.
Please see our response to your question.
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Determinations of citizenship by descent are made with regard to the circumstances at the time of a person's birth.

The *Citizenship Act* states:

3 (1) ... a person is a citizen if.....

- **(b)** the person was born outside Canada after February 14, 1977 and **at the time of his birth one of his parents, other than a parent who adopted him, was a citizen**;

For persons born prior to February 14, 1977, there are separate provisions in the *Act* which refer to citizenship by descent and these also refer to the status of the parent when the child was born.

While we can't speak with certainty without a full assessment and determination by a Citizenship Officer, **in general** a subsequent adoption does not prohibit a child from obtaining citizenship by descent through a Canadian birth parent. Although an adoption process may sever the legal ties between a child and their Canadian birth parent(s), it does not negate the fact that the child had a Canadian parent at the time of their birth.

As always, exceptions to citizenship by descent apply. Clients who wish to explore whether they may have a claim to citizenship can refer to the Am I Canadian? wizard.

To apply for citizenship by descent (proof of citizenship), the applicant must be able to provide several details regarding their Canadian birth parent(s). Furthermore, they must be able to provide the required documentation to substantiate their claim. This includes evidence that proves the parent's Canadian citizenship (such as their citizenship certificate or Canadian birth certificate).

Should a client in such a situation wish to apply for proof of citizenship, they should include an explanatory letter with their application, especially if they are unable to provide required documents. Otherwise, the application risks being identified as incomplete and returned to the applicant. The Citizenship Officer must be satisfied that the applicant is eligible for citizenship by descent based on the application and documents provided. In some instances, some information may be verifiable within IRCC's own records. The Officer will contact the applicant should they require further information in order to make their determination.

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[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 22, 2025 2:43 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.[redacted].gc.ca>
Subject: Citizenship Inquiry

> **CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Government of Canada. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
> **ATTENTION:** Ce courriel provient de l'extérieur du gouvernement du Canada. Ne cliquez pas sur les liens et n'ouvrez pas les pièces jointes sauf si vous reconnaissez l'expéditeur et sachez que le contenu est sûr.

Hello,

Is an adopted child eligible to claim citizenship through descent if their biological parent was a Canadian citizen? Alternatively, does the biological parent lose the ability to pass on citizenship through descent once the child is placed for adoption?

Thank you in advance.

Yours very truly,