

Custody & Residence Evidence Checklist

Prepared by US Immigration Consultants

When filing Form N-600 (Application for Certificate of Citizenship) or Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative) for a child, USCIS may require proof of legal custody and residence. This checklist helps ensure you gather the strongest evidence to avoid delays or RFEs (Requests for Evidence).

Evidence of Legal Custody

- Certified divorce decrees showing custody arrangements
- Guardianship or adoption orders
- Court-ordered custody agreements
- Death certificate of one parent (if applicable, proving sole custody)
- Any official custody modification orders
- Translations of foreign custody orders (certified translations required)

Evidence of Residence

- School records showing parent 's address with the child
- Medical or vaccination records listing the parent as guardian
- Rental agreements, lease, or mortgage statements with both parent and child listed
- Utility bills reflecting shared residence
- Tax returns listing the child as a dependent
- Photographs of shared family life (dated, long-term proof)
- Affidavits from neighbors, teachers, or community leaders (supplemental only)

Strategy Tips for Strong Submissions

- Submit official documents whenever possible; affidavits should only supplement.
- Organize evidence by category (Custody vs. Residence) with clear labels.
- Provide translations for all non-English documents.
- Explain discrepancies in addresses or records with a short statement.
- Always respond before the USCIS deadline.

Note: This checklist is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. For assistance with your N-600 or I-130 petition, contact US Immigration Consultants at 855-963-0988 or visit usimmigrationconsultants.net.