

UNITED STATES PERMANENT MISSION TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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The United States Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS) wishes to inform the OAS Secretariat that the Department has discontinued the practice of issuing individual letters indicating whether a person born in the United States to an officer or employee of the OAS Secretariat may be a U.S. citizen. This includes any letters that were typically issued following notification of a birth in the United States to an OAS official, as well as any requests for individuals seeking evidence they are not a U.S. citizen. The Department notes that such letter is not required to apply for a U.S. passport or a U.S. visa. Individuals (or, in the case of minor children, their parents) wishing to travel to and/or from the United States should apply for the document they believe most appropriate based on the information provided below. The Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) is unable to respond to inquiries requesting guidance on individual cases.

Impact of Privileges and Immunities on Birth in the United States

A child born in the United States to a parent or parents who enjoy diplomatic agent-level immunity is generally not born “subject to the jurisdiction” of the United States, and therefore does not acquire U.S.



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citizenship at birth in accordance with the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Immigration and Nationality Act 301(a). For current OAS officers and employees in the United States, such child may be considered by the Department to be entitled to A or G nonimmigrant visa status, which the Visa Office will communicate to the family of such child within a month following proper notification of appointment with OFM. Such child may also apply for a nonimmigrant visa.

A child born in the United States to a parent or parents who enjoy the level of immunities established by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, is born “subject to the jurisdiction” of the United States and therefore generally acquires U.S. citizenship at birth. Such child, whether born to a current employee of the OAS or previously born in the United States to a former OAS employee, will not receive a notification from the Visa Office or any other office within the Department and may be eligible for a United States passport.

The above information is provided as a courtesy solely for the purpose of advising the OAS Secretariat on which travel documents are likely most appropriate for children born in the United States to its employees based on the privileges and immunities enjoyed by the child at birth. The Department recognizes there are special circumstances that the general rules stated above do not cover. The Department will consider all relevant facts when adjudicating passport and visa applications.

The United States Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.