



Kaiserslautern Legal Assistance Office



Citizenship, Naturalization, and Travel Documents

Please note that this Information Paper only provides basic information and is not intended to serve as a substitute for personal consultation with an attorney qualified to practice in this area of law.

This office **does not** provide advice about U.S. citizenship and naturalization.

1. **Citizenship.** If you meet certain requirements, you may become a U.S. citizen either at birth or afterwards.

To become a citizen at birth:

- You must have been born in the United States or certain territories or outlying possessions of the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;
- Or, if you were born abroad to U.S. citizen parents who meet certain citizenship requirements, you may also qualify for citizenship at birth

To become a citizen after birth, you must:

- Apply for “derived” or “acquired” citizenship through your parents; or
- Apply for naturalization.

All application processing for Naturalization is completed online at: <https://www.uscis.gov>. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date information and for the status of your case.

2. **Naturalization through Military Service.** If you are serving, or have served, in the U.S. armed forces and are interested in becoming a U.S. citizen, you may be eligible to apply for naturalization under special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

Information on Naturalization through Military Service is located here:

<https://www.uscis.gov/military/naturalization-through-military-service>

3. **Citizenship for Military Family Members.** Spouses of U.S. service members may be eligible for expedited naturalization outside the United States through the Consulate. Children of service members may also be eligible for naturalization or may be eligible to automatically acquire citizenship. While expedited procedures are available, the process can be lengthy and complex. As a result, it should be started no later than 1 year prior the projected PCS of the servicemember spouse. This process can be started prior to receiving PCS orders.

Information on Citizenship for Military Family Members is located here:

<https://www.uscis.gov/military/citizenship-for-military-family-members>

If you are stationed in Germany, the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany (<https://de.usembassy.gov/u-s-consulate-general-frankfurt/>) is your primary point of contact. The Consulate has an extensive FAQ on their website (navigate to the drop down menu, select “Contact Us” and then click the link for “ACS navigator (Google Forms)”). Using the Navigator is

the best method for getting in contact with Consulate personnel. Due to high demand and low staffing, the Consulate does not return phone calls. Unfortunately, the Navigator is not accessible from the .mil network.

4. **Visas.** For general information on visa / travel documents, start your search here:

<https://www.ustraveldocs.com/>

5. **Passports.** Unless you are in an emergency, DoD personnel overseas must work with the installation passport office to secure passports. For those in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, there are passport offices on Kleber Kaserne and Ramstein Airbase.

6. **Contact Information.** USCIS maintains a toll-free military help line at 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645) and an e-mail address at militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov exclusively for current members of the military and their families as well.