

# Proof of Citizenship and Identity Requirements

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How will SoonerCare eligibility requirements change because of this new federal law?**

The law means that all SoonerCare members and applicants declaring U.S. citizenship must provide **one-time only** proof of their U.S. citizenship and identity. This new rule will be effective in Oklahoma starting July 1, 2007. This includes all SoonerCare programs including O-EPIC, breast and cervical cancer (BCC), family planning, fee-for-service and all other programs.

### **Will this requirement affect my other benefits?**

No, this requirement is for SoonerCare benefits only.

### **Are there any citizens who do not have to provide citizenship and identity documentation?**

Yes

- Members who get SSI and/or Medicare benefits may not have to provide extra documentation to OKDHS since the Social Security Administration has already proved U.S. citizenship
- Children in foster care do not have to show proof
- Newborn babies of SoonerCare members must show proof by their first birthday.

### **How does this extra requirement affect people who are not citizens?**

The new requirement does not affect eligibility rules for qualified immigrants who are not citizens. Members and applicants who are qualified immigrants already must provide documentation.

### **How does the extra requirement affect emergency services?**

The new requirement does not affect getting emergency services. Eligibility rules have not changed for people who are not U.S. citizens.

### **What will people have to provide under the new requirements?**

Under the new federal requirements, members and applicants declaring U.S. citizenship must provide extra proof of citizenship and identity. These can include a U.S. passport, certificate of citizenship or certificate of naturalization, or birth certificate showing U.S. birthplace or its territories (for citizenship) and a driver's license (for identity). (See [SoonerCare Citizenship Fact Sheet](#) for a detailed list of acceptable proof.)

### **What if a SoonerCare member or applicant cannot show the required proof of U.S. citizenship?**

Although, there are many documents that can be used to show proof of citizenship there will occasionally be situations in which a member or applicant will not have any documentation available. OHCA and OKDHS will work with members and offer special help to those have a hard time getting documents. Additionally, the federal government allows the use of an affidavit in those rare instances where no documentation exists. If you have questions or need help, contact your OKDHS worker.

**How much time will a SoonerCare member get to provide the extra proof?**

Members will get information about the new requirements at the time of review and have until 60 days after their review to present documents.

- Members who have trouble getting proof of citizenship may ask for help from their OKDHS worker.
- Members who show proof of identity and meet all other eligibility requirements but do not have acceptable proof of citizenship can be recertified for 60 days. During the 60 days, the member must make a good-faith effort to get and show proof of citizenship.
- Members who do not provide proof of citizenship and do not tell OKDHS that they need help getting it will not be recertified.

**Can someone apply for SoonerCare or other programs if he or she does not have all the extra proof to show citizenship?**

Yes. Applications can be submitted without required proof of citizenship.

- People who show acceptable proof of identity and meet all other requirements will be certified for 60 days while they get acceptable proof of citizenship.
- During the 60 days, the person must make a good-faith effort to get and provide proof of citizenship. People who have a hard time doing this may ask for help from OKDHS.
- SoonerCare benefits will end after 60 days for people who do not provide proof of citizenship and do not tell OKDHS that they need help getting it.

**Will OHCA and OKDHS help people who do not have a copy of their birth certificates?**

OHCA and OKDHS are working with the State Health Department's vital records office to verify births for members and applicants born in Oklahoma. People matched in that way will not need to show proof of citizenship, but everyone must show proof of identity.

Members and applicants born in Oklahoma can get certified copies of their birth certificates from the [Oklahoma State Department of Health](#) at 405-271-4040.

For those born outside Oklahoma, OHCA and OKDHS can give contact information for vital records departments in other states; [click here](#) for a directory.

**Can I use an affidavit to prove identity for my child?**

An affidavit signed by the parent or guardian may be used for children under age 16 to prove identity.

**Can I use an affidavit to prove both U.S. citizenship and identity for my child?**

No, an affidavit may not be used to prove both citizenship and identity.

**Can I use an affidavit to prove U.S. citizenship for a child over 16 or an adult?**

In rare cases, the federal government lets an affidavit serve as proof of citizenship. A specialty unit will help those people get proof of citizenship. The unit will decide if a member meets the standards to use the affidavit.

**How are OHCA and OKDHS telling people about the extra requirement for SoonerCare?**

All members will get information about it with their regularly mailed review notice. This process will go on during 2007 and into 2008 until all members have been informed. Fliers will be available in OKDHS county offices and with new applications.

**How are OHCA and OKDHS telling the community and providers?**

The agencies are working together to teach the community about how the extra requirement will be managed in Oklahoma during the eligibility and review processes. The agencies will work to avoid denial or loss of health insurance for eligible Oklahomans. Packets will be sent to various advocacy and community-based groups who may provide information or help people apply for SoonerCare.

Versión en español disponible en [www.okhca.org/citizenship](http://www.okhca.org/citizenship) o en la oficina local del Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Oklahoma.