

[Table of Contents](#)
[Keyword Search](#)
[Previous Document](#)
[Next Document](#)

## Audience:

### DO/BO/TSC:

CR, CR TII, CR TXVI, DRT, FR, OA, OS, RR, SR

### OCO-ODO-IND:

CATA

### OCO-ODO-SHARE:

CA, RECONR

### OCO-OIO-IND:

CA, CATA, CC, FCR, LC, RECONR

### PSC: CA, CRTA, CS, ICDS, IES, ISRA, RECONR

### Citations:

Social Security Act, Section 228(a)(3), Sec 1614(a)(1)(B), Sec. 1836(2)

TN 20 (05-89)

# GN 00303.001 Requirement of U.S. Citizenship or Appropriate Alien Status

## A. Policy Principle

An individual must be a **U.S. citizen** or have the **appropriate alien status** to be eligible for the following benefits:

- Benefits at age 72 for uninsured individuals;
- Supplemental Security Income; and
- Health Insurance or Supplemental Medical Insurance for uninsured individuals.

## B. Definitions

### 1. U.S. CITIZEN

An individual who is entitled to the privileges, obligations and duties of the United States; an individual who has the privilege of voting for public offices and is entitled to full protection in the exercise of private rights.

### 2. U.S. NATIONAL

An individual who, though not a citizen, owes permanent allegiance to the U.S.

### 3. ALIEN STATUS

The legal status or **statutory classification** of an individual who is neither a U.S. citizen nor a U.S. national.

## 4. NATURALIZED CITIZEN

An individual upon whom U.S. citizenship is conferred after his/her birth.

## C. Operating Policy - Citizenship

U.S. Nationals are treated as U.S. citizens for SSA purposes

## D. Related Policy

The **Immigration and Naturalization Service**(INS) has jurisdiction for citizenship and alien status decisions regarding individuals in the U.S. The State Department is responsible for decisions regarding individuals outside the U.S. The determinations of these agencies are binding on all Federal agencies and all States. It is immaterial whether or not the determination is made before or after SSA's determination. SSA follows the appropriate agency's laws, rules and regulations in making citizenship decisions for eligibility for most Social Security programs.

## E. References

- [RM 00203.110](#)ff for establishing **U.S. citizenship** for an **SSN**;
- [RS 02635.000](#)ff for establishing **alien status** for a deportee;
- [GN 05010.000](#)ff for **U.S. citizenship for nonresident withholding tax**.

---

Added to this file 01/21/2003

**Last Updated:** 01/21/1999

---



GN 00303.001 - Requirement of U.S. Citizenship or Appropriate Alien Status - 01/21/99