



Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization

Passport Registration

We the People

PASSPORT

TRAVEL DOCUMENT



United States of America



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD

The person identified is authorized to work in the U.S. for the validity of this card.

NAME VOID, VOID V
Lee W. Christensen

A# 000-000-051

CARD# SRC0000000051

Birthdate 01/01/75 Category M Sex

Country of Birth China, People's Republic of

Temp. Status None

NOT VALID FOR REENTRY

CARD VALID FROM 01/01/80 EXPIRES 01/01/80

HAPPY

Nationality / race UNITED STATES

Date of birth / Date of issue 04 JUL 196 WASHINGTON

Date of issue / Date of expiration 28 AUG 200

PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD

NAME VOID, VOID V

A# 000-000-039

Birthdate 01/01/75 Category F Sex

Country of Birth El Salvador

CARD# SRC0000000039

Resident since 01/01/80

Guide to Selected U.S. Travel and Identity Documents

Prepared by the Forensic Document Laboratory



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Table of Contents

General Information on Alien Status	3
U.S. Passports.....	4
Certificates of Naturalization.....	6
Residence Cards	8
Employment Authorization Cards	13
Travel Documents.....	15
Non-Immigrant Visas.....	17
I-94s	19
Immigrant Documentation	21
Social Security Cards	23
Ordering Information	24

General Information On Alien Status

In accordance with the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, any person born in and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States is a citizen of the United States at birth. U.S. citizenship may also be acquired through **DERIVATION** from a U.S. citizen parent when children are born abroad or through **NATURALIZATION** after meeting the necessary residency requirements. All persons not citizens or nationals of the U.S. are aliens, who are generally classified as **PERMANENT RESIDENTS** (immigrants), **NON-IMMIGRANTS** or **UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS**.

PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS enjoy almost all the same rights as U.S. citizens. This status may be obtained through a number of different procedures and, unless taken away administratively, is granted for life. Aliens with permanent residency must carry evidence of their status.

NON-IMMIGRANT ALIENS are admitted to the U.S. for a temporary period of time and for a specific purpose, most often as tourists. There are different categories of non-immigrants and they are identified through letter/number symbols (such as "B-2"). Non-immigrants are also required to present evidence of their lawful status in the U.S. to officers of ICE. This will usually consist of a passport containing a visa and an Arrival/Departure Record (Form I-94 or CBP I-94A).

UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS are those who may have crossed the border illegally and/or been smuggled into the interior of the U.S. or those who have violated their non-immigrant status by accepting unauthorized employment, remaining longer than permitted or committing some other violation. Some of these aliens purchase counterfeit documents or assume another person's identity by using fraudulently obtained genuine documents.

This guide is intended to assist those tasked with examining travel and employment authorization documents. It contains color photographs of the most commonly used documents, but it is not comprehensive. There are earlier valid revisions of some illustrated documents and other less common documents that are not illustrated here.

Because the attachments are reproductions, the exact size and color may deviate from the original. Do not make identifications based on size and/or color alone.

For any questions regarding the authenticity of the documents shown in this guide, please contact the nearest office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

A UNITED STATES PASSPORT is a document issued by the Department of State to persons who have established citizenship in the United States by birth, derivation or naturalization. The primary purpose of the passport is to facilitate travel to foreign countries by establishing U.S. citizenship and acting as a vehicle to display any visas and/or entry/exit stamps that may be necessary.

Passports may also be used within the United States to establish citizenship, identity and employment eligibility.

Several different versions of the U.S. passport are currently valid and in circulation at this time. The most recent version, called the E-Passport, contains an electronic chip in the back cover. These passports can be identified by the chip logo on the front cover.



The Emergency Passport booklet looks similar to the E-Passport, but it does not contain a chip and is only issued for a limited period of validity.



Older versions of the U.S. passport remain valid until the expiration dates printed in the passport booklet.

The current version of the **CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION**, now issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), is similar to the previous version issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. It contains a gold embossed Great Seal of the United States in the top center portion. The watermark design, visible when the document is held up to a strong light, contains the emblem of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).



DHS watermark

Older versions of the certificate of naturalization continue to serve as valid evidence of U.S. citizenship. The last version, issued by the INS, was similar to the current DHS certificate. It too bore a gold embossed Great Seal of the United States in the top center portion. The watermark design contained the the Department of Justice seal and the letters "USA."



Department of Justice watermark



Earlier versions of the certificate had gray or beige background designs and did not contain the embossed seal. Original certificates of naturalization were printed on watermarked paper.

Forms I-151 and I-551 are issued to aliens who have been granted permanent resident status in the United States. They retain this status while in this country. The bearer is required to have this card in his/her possession at all times.

The first **ALIEN REGISTRATION RECEIPT CARD**, Form I-151, was introduced in 1946. Through 18 years of various revisions, it remained primarily green in color, causing it to become known as a "Green Card." This term is still used commonly, although the cards have not been green since 1959. The I-151 cards contained no expiration date and were only required to be renewed if the recipient was under the age of 14 at the time of issuance or if the card was lost or stolen. As of March 20, 1996, the Form I-151 is no longer acceptable as evidence of permanent residence.



Form I-151

The **RESIDENT ALIEN CARD**, Form I-551, was introduced in January 1977 and phased in over a period of time. In addition to the photograph, the I-551 contains the bearer's signature and fingerprint. As with the older I-151 cards, this version I-551 generally does not contain an expiration date.



Form I-551 (1977)

The **EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD**, Form I-766 was updated in May 2004. It incorporated the DHS seal but is otherwise similar to the previous version, with a photograph, fingerprint and signature of the bearer beneath a holographic film. The reverse side displays a standard bar code, magnetic strip and a two-dimensional bar code containing encoded data. The card was revised again in August 2004, using a full frontal face photograph instead of the three quarter face position. The reverse continues to bear the revision date of 05-2004.



This card is not evidence of U.S. citizenship or permanent residence. This document is void if altered, and may be revoked by the U.S. Government.
 FORM I-766 Rev. (05-2004)

The **U.S. TRAVEL DOCUMENT** is a multipurpose booklet. Notations above the bearer's image allow identification of the type of document. When issued as a **Permit to Re-Enter Form I-327**, it allows the bearer, a permanent resident, to leave and re-enter the United States during its two-year period of validity. It can also be issued as a **Refugee Travel Document Form I-571** to people who have been recognized as refugees or asylees in the United States. Both versions contain digitized images of the bearer and pages for visas and entry/exit stamps.



Reverse

Some immigrants may have an impression of an ADIT stamp as proof of permanent residence without an immigrant visa. This stamp serves as evidence of immigrant status until the bearer receives a Permanent Resident Card.



The current USCIS stamp is shown above. ADIT stamps in other formats may also be encountered. Similar stamp impressions are used to demonstrate refugee or asylum status.

Although SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS are not immigration documents, they are mentioned here because they are often used as identification and to establish employment authorization.

Social Security cards have been issued since 1936 and have been revised more than 20 times. Originally, the Social Security card contained the seal of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In May 1980, the seal changed to that of the Department of Health and Human Services. In April 1995 the seal was changed again to that of the Social Security Administration. Some counterfeiters have failed to notice these changes.

In October 1983, security features were added to the card. All Social Security cards issued since October 1983 have been printed with raised (intaglio) printing and the signature line consists of microline printing of the words "SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION" in a repeating pattern.



This card belongs to the Social Security Administration and you must return it if you ask for it.

If you find a card that isn't yours, please return it to:
Social Security Administration
P.O. Box 33008, Baltimore, MD 21290-3008

For any other Social Security business/information, contact your local Social Security office. If you write to the above address for any business other than reporting a found card you will not receive a response.

Social Security Administration
Form SSA-3008 (11-2006)
F 15532006

To order copies of this document,
"Form M-396; Guide to Selected U.S. Travel and Identity Documents,"
please complete the appropriate form and mail or fax to:

**Customs and Border Protection
National Distribution Center**

P.O. Box 68912
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Fax: 317-290-3046

For government requests, please use Form CBP-3039.

All other requests should use Form CBP-262.

Links for these forms may be found in the
Forensic Document Laboratory fact sheet
posted on ICE's Web site:

www.ice.gov