

# DOCUMENTING & PROVING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

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## Overview

- The Basics: Types of relationships & acceptable proof
- But my case is special! What to do when primary sources aren't available?
- Notes on specific countries, specific relationships & practice pointers

# THE BASICS

Begin at the very beginning...

## The Basics: Types of relationships & acceptable proof

- Burden of proof (preponderance of the evidence) is on the Petitioner!
- Always start with primary sources!
- Parent/Child:
  - Vital records: birth certificates
  - May also include: marriage certificates, divorce decrees & adoption records

## The Basics: Types of relationships & acceptable proof

### ■ Spouse:

- Vital records: marriage certificates & divorce decrees
- Also consider: bona fides, culturally appropriate considerations

## The Basics: Types of relationships & acceptable proof

### ■ Siblings:

- Vital records: birth certificates, marriage certificates
- Also consider: half-siblings, name changes

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## Title search: Documenting and Proving Family Relationships

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Family Immigration Practice: Proving Family Relationships, and Overcoming Marriage Fraud Findings](#)

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40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law session  
"Documenting and Proving Family Relationships"