

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

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
40th Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law session
"Documenting and Proving Family Relationships"