



G W Y . D B P  
**CHEROKEE NATION™**  
P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948 • (918) 453-5000

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Principal Chief

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Deputy Principal Chief

### **INFORMATION:**

To be eligible for Tribal Citizenship with the Cherokee Nation, you must be able to provide documents that connect you to an enrolled lineal ancestor, who is listed on the (DAWES ROLL) FINAL ROLLS OF CITIZENS AND FREEDMEN OF THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES, Cherokee Nation with a blood degree. This roll was taken between 1899-1906 of Citizens and Freedmen residing in Indian Territory (now NE Oklahoma).

Many applicants do not qualify for Tribal Citizenship as their ancestors did not meet the enrollment requirements and were not enrolled. Certain requirements had to be met in order to be placed on the Dawes Roll. One example is the enrollee had to establish their permanent residence in NE Oklahoma before 1889 to meet the residential requirement.

Tribal Citizenship is issued through natural parents. In adoption cases, Tribal Citizenship must be proven through the BIOLOGICAL PARENT to the enrolled ancestor. A copy of the Final Decree of Adoption, and a State Certified, Full Image/Photocopy of the Birth Record must accompany the application. All information will remain confidential.

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Complete the application in black/blue ink listing the closest lineal ancestor with a Tribal Citizenship number. If the applicant is a minor, the parent or legal guardian must sign the application.
2. Legal documents (signed by a judge) will need to be submitted with the application if the applicant is legally represented, such as court appointed guardian or under court ordered custody, such as divorce custody.
3. Attach the ORIGINAL STATE CERTIFIED FULL IMAGE/PHOTOCOPY OF THE BIRTH RECORD of the applicant and a copy of an immediate family member's Tribal Citizenship card.
4. If no one in the family has received Tribal Citizenship, attach ORIGINAL STATE CERTIFIED DOCUMENTS (BIRTH/DEATH) CERTIFICATES beginning with the applicant back to the enrollee.
5. Birth/Death records must be signed by the State Registrar, bearing the State Seal and State File Numbers. Please note that some States only issue a computer-generated record and a sworn statement affidavit may need to be signed by a parent. We cannot accept hospital, county certified or abstracts records. Originals can be brought in and a copy will be made for files (we do not keep the originals).
6. If your enrollee ancestor DIED after 1962, submit the ORIGINAL STATE CERTIFIED DEATH CERTIFICATE. This is needed to assist us in our review.
7. Should further information be needed to complete the application(s), we will contact you for specific documents.
8. Should we be unable to issue you Tribal Citizenship, a letter of explanation will be sent to you by restricted/certified mail. An Appeals Process will accompany the letter, should you not agree with our findings/decision.

### **RESEARCH REFERRAL:**

If you need help with your research, please contact the Genealogy office at the Cherokee Heritage Center at (918) 456-6007 or at the following link: <http://www.cherokeeheritage.org/cherokeeheritage/genealogy.html>

You can access the "DAWES ROLLS" at: [www.accessgenealogy.com/native/finalroll.php](http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/finalroll.php)

Mail completed applications and original documents to:  
**Cherokee Nation**  
**Tribal Registration**  
**P.O. Box 948**  
**Tahlequah, OK 74465**

Questions: Please visit [www.cherokee.org](http://www.cherokee.org), email [registration@cherokee.org](mailto:registration@cherokee.org) or contact us at 1-800-256-0671, ext. 6980.

**PROCESSING TIME MAY VARY**