

# Political Status: Not All Nationals Are Citizens

Most people assume that "U.S. citizen" and "U.S. national" are the same. They are not. Here's what the law actually says:

## 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(22) – "National" Defined:

"The term 'national of the United States' means (A) a citizen of the United States, or (B) a person who, though not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States."

Let that sink in:

**All U.S. citizens are U.S. nationals**

**Not all U.S. nationals are U.S. citizens**

## Who Are Non-Citizen Nationals?

- Primarily individuals born in **American Samoa** or **Swains Island**
- They owe allegiance to the U.S. but **do not possess full citizenship rights**, such as voting in federal elections

This distinction is recognized by the **Department of State**, and passports can be issued with "**U.S. National — Not a U.S. Citizen**" status under **INA § 341(b)**.

# The Right to Travel: A Fundamental Liberty

You have the right to move freely — without permission, license, or government oversight — when you're not engaged in commerce.

## Backed by Case Law:

- **Kent v. Dulles** (1958): Travel is part of the "liberty" protected under the Fifth Amendment
- **Crandall v. Nevada** (1868): States have no authority to restrict or tax your movement
- **Saenz v. Roe** (1999): The right to move freely between states is constitutionally protected
- **Thompson v. Smith** (1930): The right to travel is not a privilege that can be licensed

# Driving vs. Traveling: A Legal Distinction

## Driving = Commercial Activity

Licensing, registration, and insurance apply when you're **operating a motor vehicle for hire or profit**.

**Driver:** A person employed to transport goods or passengers (Bouvier's Law Dictionary, 1914)

**Motor Vehicle:** A commercial conveyance under 18 U.S.C. § 31

**Automobile:** A private, personal-use car for non-commercial purposes (*American Mutual Liability Co. v. Chaput*)

## Traveling = Constitutionally Protected Right

When using your automobile for personal, non-commercial travel:

- You are **not required** to have a driver's license
- You are **not required** to register your automobile
- You are **not operating in commerce**

## Legal Support for Non-Licensed Private Travel

- *Thompson v. Smith*: "The right of a citizen to travel upon the public highways... is not a mere privilege... it is a common right."
- *Delaware v. Prouse* (1979): Police cannot randomly stop and check travelers for licenses without probable cause
- *Chicago Coach Co. v. City of Chicago*: Licensing applies to commercial operations — not private, personal travel
- *Wingfield v. Fielder*: Courts affirmed the distinction between public (commercial) use and private travel

## Know the Law. Stand Your Ground.

Understanding the difference between political status and legal definitions isn't just trivia — it's the foundation for protecting your **freedom, mobility, and sovereignty**.

Whether you're traveling cross-country or helping your community learn the law, remember:

**You have the right to move freely. That right is not subject to permission, permit, or privilege.**

**TO LEARN MORE, CHANGE YOUR STATUS, GET A TRAVEL  
PACKET AND MORE CLICK THE BUTTON BELOW AND SET UP A  
CONSULT**