

# Naturalization

NATURALIZACIÓN



# What is Naturalization?

---

Naturalization is the process by which a foreign national voluntarily becomes a U.S. citizen after meeting specific requirements including residency, English language proficiency, and good moral character.

# The Application Process

---

- ❖ Complete N400 Naturalization Application
  - ❖ Pay \$760.00 Filing Fee
- ❖ Send Application to USCIS
- ❖ Receive Receipt letters from USCIS
- ❖ Biometrics Appointment
- ❖ Interview; English Test and Civics Test;
- ❖ **If English is exempt, the applicant must bring an interpreter 18 years or older.**
- ❖ Oath Ceremony

## *Eligibility Requirements:*

---

1. Applicant must be 18 years old or older at time of filing

## *Eligibility Requirements:*

---

2. Applicant must be a lawful permanent resident (“green card holder”) for at least 5 years immediately prior to date of filing
  - Exception: LPR for 3 years if applicant is married and living with U.S. citizen spouse

## *Eligibility Requirements:*

---

3. Applicant must live within the state (Colorado) for at least 3 months prior to application

## *Eligibility Requirements:*

---

4. Applicant must maintain continuous presence in U.S. during the 5 years prior to date of filing
  - Applicant cannot have left U.S. for long periods of time

## *Eligibility Requirements:*

---

5. Applicant must be physically present in U.S. at least 30 months of the 5 years prior to application.



## *Requirement*

---

6. Applicant must reside continuously in U.S. from date of application to time of naturalization.

# N400 Application Document

---

## N400 USCIS Form

- To fill out the application form, the applicant will need to:
  - Provide their name, A number, social security number, birthdate, and birthplace;
  - Provide their addresses and places of employment for the previous 5 years;
  - Provide information about their marriage(s);
  - Provide information about any children under 18 years old;
  - Provide information about any and all international trips taken in the last 5 years ; and
  - Answer questions regarding fraud, criminal history, military service, weapons training, immigration history.

# Oath of Allegiance

---

## **The Oath of Allegiance**

*I hereby declare, on oath,*

*that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;*

*that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;*

*that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;*

*that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;*

*that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;*

*that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.*

Applicants will also have to swear, under oath, that they:

- ☐ support the Constitution and form of government in the United States,
- ☐ Are willing and able to take the Oath of Allegiance, and
- ☐ Are willing to bear arms and perform work of national importance on behalf of the United States should the law require it.

## *Additional Eligibility Requirements:*

---

- ❖ Applicant must be able to read, write and speak English
- ❖ Applicant must have an understanding of U.S. history and government as tested through the civics exam
  - Pass civics test 6/10 correct out of 100 possible

USCIS Naturalization Civics Test

# *Exceptions:*

---

- 50 years old/20 years LPR  
(No English/ 100 Q's)
- 55 years old/15 years LPR  
(No English/100 Q's)
- 65 years old/20 years LPR  
(No English/20 Q's)
- Disability Exception

# *Additional Requirements:*

---

## Be a person of Good Moral Character

- No serious criminal conviction
- All taxes filed and paid
- No unpaid child/spouse support obligation
- Selective Service 18-26 yr old men
- No long absences from US

# Legal Considerations and Common Challenges

---

## CONSIDERATIONS

- Impact of criminal record on application process
- Tax obligations
- Long trips outside of the U.S. (Do they implicate abandonment?)
- Child or spousal support obligations
- Immigration history
- Selective Service registration

## CHALLENGE

- English language fluency
- Demonstrating good moral character
- Addressing criminal history
- Admissions and omissions
- Money

# Questions?

Contact Information:

303-839-1008

913 N. Wyandot St.

Denver, CO 80204



JUSTICE AND MERCY  
— LEGAL AID CENTER —

Renzo Reategui Walton and  
McKenna Newsum Schoenberg