

Becoming a U.S. Citizen Through Naturalization

What Is Naturalization?

From U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): "Naturalization is the process by which U.S. Citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen or national after he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)."



Applying for Naturalization

People who wish to apply for naturalization must complete USCIS form N-400, Application for Naturalization. There are various eligibility requirements that people must meet in order to be considered for naturalization. Basic guidelines are provided below. If you have questions about your specific situation, contact CLA for help.

Naturalization Approval

If your N-400 Application is approved by USCIS, there are a few more steps toward becoming a citizen. You must take an Oath of Allegiance at a USCIS-sponsored ceremony. You must return your permanent resident card. Certificates of Naturalization will then be distributed.

Basic Eligibility Checklist for Naturalization

- Lawful Permanent Resident (Green Card).
- Continuous residency in the United States for the past 5 years.
- Physically present in the United States for at least 30 months of those 5 years.
- Have lived in the district from which you are applying for citizenship for at least 3 months.
- Read, write and speak basic English
- Basic knowledge of U.S. History and Government.
- Understand and uphold the values of the U.S. Constitution.
- Good moral character.

Please note that every situation is different and that this information does not constitute all of the qualifications or materials needed to obtain U.S. Citizenship through naturalization.

If you have questions about whether you are able to naturalize, or any other questions pertaining to your citizenship status, contact CLA.

Additional resources and information can be found on the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website: [USCIS.GOV/US-CITIZENSHIP](https://uscis.gov/us-citizenship)



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