



A Guide to Naturalization



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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Table of Contents

Welcome	Page 1	1
What Are the Benefits and Responsibilities of Citizenship?	Page 3	2
Frequently Asked Questions	Page 5	3
Who Is Eligible for Naturalization?	Page 17	4
Table of Eligibility Requirements	Page 18	
Time as a Permanent Resident	Page 22	
Continuous Residence	Page 22	
Physical Presence in the United States	Page 23	
Time as a Resident in a USCIS District or State	Page 24	
Good Moral Character	Page 25	
English and Civics	Page 26	
Attachment to the Constitution	Page 28	
What Should I Expect From the Naturalization Process?	Page 31	5
Preparing to Apply	Page 32	
Completing Your Application	Page 33	
Getting Biometrics Taken	Page 35	
Being Interviewed	Page 36	
Taking the Oath	Page 38	
What Kind of Customer Service Can I Expect?	Page 41	6
Where Do I Go for Help?	Page 43	7
Glossary of Terms	Page 45	8

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Welcome

E Pluribus Unum - Out of Many, One

-Motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States

Welcome

We are very pleased that you want to become a U.S. citizen. The United States is a nation of immigrants. Throughout our history, immigrants have come here seeking a better way of life and have strengthened our Nation in the process.

For more than 200 years, the United States has remained strong because of our citizens and the common civic values we share. Deciding to become a U.S. citizen is one of the most important decisions in a person's life. If you decide to apply for naturalization, you will be showing your permanent commitment to the United States. You will also be showing your loyalty to its Constitution and its people.

When you are naturalized, you agree to accept all of the responsibilities of being a citizen. You agree to support the United States, its Constitution, and its laws. In return, you are rewarded with all the rights and privileges that are part of citizenship. We welcome your interest and hope you will read on to learn more about naturalization.

What Is Naturalization?

Naturalization is commonly referred to as the manner in which a person not born in the United States voluntarily becomes a U.S. citizen.

What Is This *Guide* for?

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) created this *Guide* to provide better and more consistent information to people interested in naturalization. It is written mainly for people 18 years or older who want to become citizens. Please take the time to review this information to make sure that you are eligible to apply for naturalization. You can find more information at www.uscis.gov or by calling Customer Service at **1-800-375-5283** or **1-800-767-1833** (for hearing impaired).