

PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Communities
Concerned for
Immigrants &
Refugees



The Naturalization Process

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Eligibility Criteria

- Be 18 years old or older at the time of filing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
- Be a lawful permanent resident (have a “Green Card”).
- Demonstrate continuous permanent residence in the United States for at least 5 years. (In some cases, this may be 3 years if you are married to a U.S. citizen.)
- Show that you have been physically present in the United States for 30 months. (In some cases, this may be 18 months if you are married to a U.S. citizen.)
- Show that you have lived for at least 3 months in the state or USCIS district where you claim residence.

Benefits of Citizenship

- Right to vote in local, state and federal elections
- Right to hold a United States passport
- Right to travel outside the U.S. for long periods of time
- Ability to apply for all federal benefits (i.e. work for federal agencies, federal college assistance, enhanced Social Security, Medicare and/or Disability benefits)
- Ability to file immigrant visa petitions for immediate relatives (parents, spouse, children & siblings)

Additional Benefits of Citizenship

- You can run for public office
- Minor child(ren) may automatically become U.S. citizen upon your naturalization
- Less expensive in the long run

Considerations

- **Are you already a United States Citizen?**

If you have a parent that was a U.S. citizen, either by birth or naturalization, before you turned 18 years old, you may have a claim to citizenship.

- **Can you speak, read, and write basic English and do you have an understanding of U.S. history and government (civics)?**
- **Do you support the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution and are you willing to swear an oath to the United States?**
- **Have you ever been married, divorced, widowed, or had your name legally changed?**

Additional Considerations

- **Have you EVER been arrested, detained, or cited by the police or any other law enforcement officer?**
- **Have you traveled outside the United States since becoming a permanent resident?**
- **Are you a man between the ages of 18 and 26?**
- **Have you reported your income on your income tax forms?**
- **Did you submit photocopies of your Permanent Resident Card with your Form N-400, Application for Naturalization?**
- **Are you eligible for a disability waiver or age-based exemption?**

Filing Fees

- \$640* (add the \$85 biometric fee for a total of \$725, where applicable).


Exceptions:

- Applicants 75 years of age or older do not need to pay a biometric fee. They only need to pay the \$640 filing fee.
- No fee is required for military applicants filing under section 328 or 329 of the INA.

** When you send a payment, you agree to pay for a government service. Filing and biometric service fees are final and non-refundable, regardless of any action we take on your application, petition, or request, or if you withdraw your request.*

Fee Waiver – Form I-912

- Means Tested Benefit (examples include *Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, Supplemental Security Income or SSI*)
- Income at or Below 150 Percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Financial Hardship

For the 48 Contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: 

Sponsor's Household Size	150% of HHS Poverty Guidelines*
1	\$20,385
2	\$27,465
3	\$34,545
4	\$41,625
5	\$48,705
6	\$55,785
7	\$62,865
8	\$69,945
	Add \$7,080 for each additional person

* Source: *I-912p, Guidelines for Fee Waiver Request as of Jan. 12, 2022*

Filing for Naturalization - Forms

- N-400, Application for Naturalization
- I-912, Application for Fee Waiver*
- G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions*

Current Processing Time

Processing time for Application for Naturalization (N-400) at Kansas City MO



[Sign in or create a new account to see your personalized case completion time](#)

**As of April 22, 2022*

English Language Exemption(s)

50 years of age 20
years as permanent
resident

55 years of age 15
years as permanent
resident

65 years of age 20
years as permanent
resident – simplified
civics test

Avoid Scams

Paying Money for Connections or Jumping in Line

Sometimes businesses and websites pretend to be immigration experts or say they have special connections to the government. They might also “guarantee” that you can get a visa, Green Card, or work permit faster if you pay a fee. Remember, USCIS has no exceptions to the normal processing times and no one can obtain these services faster than the usual process.

Avoid Scams

“Notarios Públicos”

In many Latin American countries, the term “notario publico” (which is Spanish for “notary public”) means something very different than what it means in the United States. In many Spanish-speaking nations, “notarios” are powerful attorneys with special legal credentials. In the U.S., however, notary publics are people appointed by state governments to witness the signing of important documents and administer oaths. **A notario publico is not authorized to provide you with any legal services related to immigration.** Only an attorney or an accredited representative working for a Department of Justice (DOJ)-recognized organization can give you legal advice. For more information, go to the Recognition & Accreditation Program page on DOJ’s website.



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