

# Instructions for Form N-400, Application for Naturalization

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## What Is the Purpose of Form N-400?

Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, is an application to become a naturalized U.S. citizen.

If your biological or legal adoptive mother or father is a U.S. citizen by birth, or was naturalized before you reached your 18th birthday, you may already be a U.S. citizen. Before **you file** this application, please visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) for more **information** and to review the Instructions for Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship (available at [www.uscis.gov/N-600](http://www.uscis.gov/N-600)).

**You can find additional resources on the requirements and process for becoming a U.S. citizen at [www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship](http://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship).**

## Who Should Not File Form N-400?

You should not file this application if any of the following statements apply to you:

1. You have not met the eligibility requirements for naturalization based on your filing category.
2. You have acquired or derived U.S. citizenship through one or both of your parents;
3. You are under 18 years of age (unless you have served honorably as a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve or in an active-duty status in the U.S. armed forces during a designated period of hostilities, including the period beginning on September 11, 2001);
4. You are more than 90 days from completing your required period of continuous residence as a lawful permanent resident (if required);
5. You were convicted of desertion from the U.S. armed forces;
6. You were convicted of murder or an aggravated felony (on or after November 29, 1990);
7. You ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the commission of Nazi persecution, genocide, torture, or extrajudicial killing;
8. You served as a foreign government official and were responsible for or directly carried out particularly severe violations of religious freedom; or
9. You are not willing to take the Oath of Allegiance (or a modified version, if qualified).
10. You presently reside outside the United States and are not:
  - A. A member of the U.S. armed forces;
  - B. The spouse of a member of the U.S. armed forces who is residing abroad with the member in marital union and is authorized to accompany the member pursuant to the member's official orders; or
  - C. The spouse of a U.S. citizen working for a qualified employer abroad and applying under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 319(b).

## General Eligibility Requirements

In general, you may apply for naturalization when you meet **all** the requirements to become a U.S. citizen. General eligibility requirements that apply to most naturalization applicants are the following:

1. You are at least **18 years of age** at the time of filing;
2. You **have been a lawful** permanent resident of the United States for a required period of time;

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3. You have lived within the **U.S.** state or USCIS **service** district where you claim residence for at least **three months** prior to filing;
4. You have demonstrated physical presence within the United States for a required period of time;
5. You have demonstrated continuous residence **in the United States** for a required period of time;
6. You demonstrate good moral character;
7. You demonstrate an attachment to the **principles of** the U.S. Constitution;
8. You demonstrate a basic knowledge of U.S. history and government (also known as “civics”) as well as an ability to read, write, speak and understand basic English; **and**
9. You take **the** Oath of Allegiance to the United States. Some applicants may be eligible for a modified oath.

### **Additional Requirements and Exceptions**

Information on additional specific requirements and exceptions to these requirements are outlined below. You must meet all the qualifications during the required period immediately preceding your application for naturalization and up to the time of the Oath of Allegiance.

#### ***Eligibility Based on Marriage to a U.S. Citizen***

In addition to the general eligibility requirements listed above, you must meet certain requirements if you seek to naturalize based on your marriage to a U.S. citizen. If you or your spouse were previously married, you must demonstrate that all of your previous marriages were lawfully terminated. Please see **Part 9.** of Form N-400 for what information USCIS requires about your current and previous spouses.

Generally, in order to qualify for naturalization based on marriage to a U.S. citizen at the time of filing:

1. You must be legally married to a U.S. citizen who resides in the United States;
2. You must have been living in marital union with your U.S. citizen spouse for at least three years before filing Form N-400;
3. Your spouse must have been a U.S. citizen for at least three years; and
4. You must have been a lawful permanent resident for at least three years.

#### **Required Evidence**

Provide the following if you are applying for naturalization based on your marriage to a U.S. citizen:

1. Evidence that your spouse has been a U.S. citizen for at least three years at the time you file your Form N-400. For example:
  - A. A birth certificate (if your spouse has held U.S. citizenship since birth);

**B.** Certificate of Naturalization;

**C.** Certificate of Citizenship; or

**D.** Form FS-240, Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America;

**2.** Current marriage certificate and any divorce decree, annulment decree, or death certificate showing that your prior marriages were terminated (if applicable); and

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**3.** Evidence that you and your spouse have lived in marital union for at least three years at the time you file your Form N-400. Some examples include:

**A.** Joint bank and credit card statements;

**B.** Leases or mortgages;

**C.** Birth certificates of children;

**D.** Insurance policies; and

**E.** Internal Revenue Service (IRS) copies of the income tax forms that you and your spouse filed for the past three years (or an IRS tax return transcript for the last three years).

***Eligibility for the Spouse of a U.S. Citizen Working for a Qualified Employer Abroad***

In addition to some of the general eligibility requirements listed above, you must meet certain requirements if you seek to naturalize based on your U.S. citizen spouse working for a qualified employer abroad INA section 319(b)). For the definition of qualifying employment, see below under **Required Evidence**:

**1.** You must be legally married to a U.S. citizen who is working abroad for a qualified employer;

**2.** Your U.S. citizen spouse's qualified employment abroad must be scheduled to last for at least one year after the time you file Form N-400;

**3.** You must declare in good faith an intention to reside in the United States immediately after your spouse's qualified employment abroad ends;

**4.** You must be present in the United States when you take the Oath of Allegiance;

**5.** You must establish that you will join your U.S. citizen spouse within 30 to 45 days after you are naturalized;

**6.** If you are currently outside the United States, you are required to submit two properly completed Form FD-258 fingerprint cards with your Form N-400. The FD-258 cards must be completed at an authorized site such as a U.S. Embassy, U.S. Consulate, or U.S. military installation; and

7. If you are currently outside the United States, you are also required to submit two passport photos. See the **Photograph Requirements for Applicants Residing Outside the United States** section of these Instructions for more information.

You must be present in the United States at the time of your interview and naturalization. In **Part 1.** of Form N-400, type or print the name of the USCIS field office where you would like to have your naturalization interview. Visit the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/field-offices](http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/field-offices) to find a USCIS field office.

### **Required Evidence**

1. If you or your current spouse were previously married, provide all divorce decrees, death certificates, annulment decrees, or any other evidence that shows the termination of your or your current spouse's previous marriages.
2. If your spouse is a U.S. citizen who is regularly stationed abroad, provide evidence demonstrating your U.S. citizen spouse's qualified employment abroad. For example:
  - A. The employer's name and nature of the employer's business;
  - B. The nature of the work the U.S. citizen spouse is performing;
  - C. Documentation to establish the employing entity is:
    - (1) The U.S. Government;
    - (2) An American Institution of Research recognized as such by the Attorney General (see [www.uscis.gov/air](http://www.uscis.gov/air));
    - (3) A public international organization in which the United States participates by treaty or statute;
    - (4) A firm or corporation owned in whole or in part by U.S. interests that is engaged in whole or in part in the development of U.S. foreign trade and commerce; or
    - (5) A religious denomination or an interdenominational mission organization and your spouse is performing the ministerial or priestly functions of the religious denomination or is serving as a missionary, brother, nun, or sister for the religious denomination or interdenominational mission.

In addition, provide the following:

1. If applicable, your U.S. citizen spouse's travel orders which includes your name as a spouse;
2. Documentation to establish your spouse's qualified employment abroad is scheduled to last for at least one year from the date you file Form N-400; and
3. A typed or printed statement of your intent to reside abroad with your spouse and to live in the United States immediately after your spouse's qualified employment abroad ends.

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### ***Eligibility for Current and Former U.S. Military Members***

Some applicants may qualify for naturalization based on current or previous military service.

If you are or were a member of the U.S. military, certain naturalization requirements may not apply to you. Under INA section 328 (service during peacetime) and INA section 329 (service during hostilities), the general requirements for time as a lawful permanent resident, continuous residence, and physical presence may not apply to you. Also, you will not have to pay a filing fee or a biometric services fee for Form N-400. If you file under INA section 329 (service during hostilities), you may be naturalized even if you are under 18 years of age.

### **Required Evidence**

- 1.** All current members of the U.S. military must submit an original, completed Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service, that was signed and certified by an authorized official within six months of its submission. Former service members must submit an uncertified Form N-426. Visit the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/N-426](http://www.uscis.gov/N-426) for more information about Form N-426.
- 2.** If you are currently serving in an active duty status within the United States or abroad, you should submit a photocopy of your official military orders. Do not submit an original DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge (DD214), or original military orders.
- 3.** If you have ever been separated from the U.S. armed forces, provide copies of your DD214 for all periods of service.

For additional information on eligibility requirements, see Naturalization Information for Military Personnel (Form M-599) available at [www.uscis.gov/military/citizenship-military-personnel-family-members](http://www.uscis.gov/military/citizenship-military-personnel-family-members). If you are in the U.S. armed forces, you may contact the Military Help Line for information at **1-877-CIS-4MIL (1-877-247-4645)** or visit [www.uscis.gov/military](http://www.uscis.gov/military).

- 4.** If you are currently overseas, you are required to submit two properly completed Form FD-258 fingerprint cards with your Form N-400. The FD-258 cards must be completed at an authorized site such as a U.S. Embassy, U.S. Consulate, or U.S. military installation.
- 5.** If you are currently overseas, you are also required to submit two passport photos. See the **Photograph Requirements for Applicants Residing Outside the United States** section of these Instructions for more information.

### ***Lawful Permanent Resident Status***

Unless you are applying for naturalization based on service in the U.S. armed forces during a period of conflict, as the spouse of a U.S. citizen in qualified employment outside the United States, or as a U.S. national, you must be a lawful permanent resident for five years before applying for naturalization.

### **U.S. Nationals**

A U.S. noncitizen national may apply for naturalization without lawful permanent resident status. U.S. noncitizen nationals include persons born in American Samoa or Swains Island.

## Conditional Residence

If you are a conditional permanent resident, in most cases you must have an approved Form I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence, before USCIS can approve your application for naturalization. You must file Form I-751 within 90 days of the second anniversary of the date you obtained your conditional permanent resident status, unless you can establish good cause and extenuating circumstances for failing to file Form I-751 during that time period.

The requirement to remove conditions on residence does not apply to military members applying under INA section 329 or to certain spouses of U.S. citizens employed abroad by qualified organizations under INA section 319(b).

## Required Evidence

**Permanent Resident Card.** Do not include your Permanent Resident Card with your application. You must bring it when you appear for your interview.

### *Photograph Requirements for Applicants Residing Outside the United States*

If you are applying from outside the United States, you must submit two identical color passport-style photographs of yourself taken recently. The photos must have a white to off-white background, be printed on thin paper with a glossy finish, and be unmounted and unretouched.

The two identical color passport-style photos must be 2 by 2 inches. The photos must be in color with full face, frontal view, on a white to off-white background. Head height should measure 1 to 1 3/8 inches from top of your hair to the bottom of your chin, and eye height is between 1 1/8 to 1 3/8 inches from the top of your eyes to the bottom of the photo. Your head must be bare unless you are wearing headwear as required by a religious denomination of which you are a member. Using a pencil or felt pen, lightly print your name and Alien Registration Number (A-Number (USCIS Number)) (if any) on the back of the photo.

### *Continuous Residence and Physical Presence Requirements*

#### Continuous Residence

Certain applicants must establish that they did not break the continuity of their residence in the United States. You must list in detail all of the trips you have taken outside the United States since you became a lawful permanent resident or during the last ten years, whichever is shorter. Please see **Part 9** of Form N-400 regarding what information USCIS requires about your travel.

To establish continuous residence in the United States, you must demonstrate that you have maintained your residence in the United States for the entire time within the period required.

“Continuous residence” means that you have not been outside the United States for a long period of time. Generally, the requirements are:

1. If you are applying based on being a lawful permanent resident, the requirement is at least five years; or
2. If you are applying based on being a spouse to a U.S. citizen, the requirement is at least three years.

The USCIS officer will review your travel history and documents to determine if you meet this requirement during your naturalization interview. You will not meet the continuous residence requirement if you left the United States for a continuous period of one year or more without USCIS approval (see the **Preserving Residence** section below in this section) during your required continuous residence period or after you file your Form N-400.

If you were absent for six months or more but less than one year, you must demonstrate that you did not abandon or break the continuity of your residence in the United States.

Some factors indicating that you did not break the continuity of your residence are:

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1. You did not terminate your employment in the United States or work while abroad;
2. Your immediate family remained in the United States during your absence; or
3. You retained full access to your home residence in the United States.

Residence in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) on or after November 28, 2009, is considered continuous residence within the United States for naturalization purposes.

The **Preserving Continuous Residence** section below lists some common circumstances under which you may be eligible to count time residing abroad as residence in the United States for naturalization purposes. Please refer to **Part 9** of Form N-400 regarding what information USCIS requires about your travel history.

### **Preserving Continuous Residence**

[2 column table, First column heading: **Your Employer or Vocation**/second column heading: **Continuous Residence Requirement**]

U.S. Government employee or contractor abroad/You may preserve your continuous residence by filing Form N-470, Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes.

Employee of an American Institution of Research/You may preserve your continuous residence by filing Form N-470.

Qualified American firm/You may preserve your continuous residence by filing Form N-470.

Employee of a U.S. non-profit organization that principally promotes the interests of the United States abroad through the communications media/You are exempt from the continuous residence requirement.

Interpreter, translator, or security-related position (executive or manager) employed by or under contract with the Chief of Mission (Department of State) or U.S. armed forces/Your entire period abroad may count as continuous residence in United States if you engaged in qualifying employment for any portion of period abroad.



Employed in religious vocation abroad/The time you resided abroad in a religious vocation may count as residence in the United States if you file Form N-470 at any time, even after you return to the United States.

### **Preserving Residence**

If you were absent for one year or more during the required period while working in qualified employment outside the United States, you generally must have an approved Form N-470 in order to preserve your continuous residence. For additional information, see the Form N-470 Instructions at [www.uscis.gov/N-470](http://www.uscis.gov/N-470).

Approval and use of a Reentry Permit or Refugee Travel Document for extended absences does not preserve continuous residence for naturalization purposes.

### **3-Month Residency in a USCIS District or U.S. State**

You must have resided in the same USCIS service district or the same U.S. state for at least three months before filing Form N-400. Please refer to **Part 5** of Form N-400 for what information USCIS requires about your address history.

You can find your USCIS service district at [www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/field-offices](http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/field-offices).

### **Residence of Students**

Students may apply for naturalization either in the USCIS service district where they go to school or in the USCIS service district where their parents live if they are still financially dependent on their parents.

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### **Physical Presence**

Certain applicants are also required to meet physical presence requirements in the United States. Physical presence refers to the number of days you must be physically present in the United States during the required statutory period before you file Form N-400.

You are generally required to have been physically present in the United States for a period or periods totaling at least half of the required continuous residence period. USCIS will count the day that you depart from the United States and the day you return as days of physical presence within the United States for naturalization purposes.

The table below lists some common bases of eligibility for naturalization, and if applicable, how long a person eligible under those provisions must have been present in the United States. Please refer to **Part 9** of Form N-400 regarding what information USCIS requires about your travel history.

### **Physical Presence Requirements**

[2 column table, first column heading: **Basis of Eligibility for Naturalization**/second column heading: **Physical Presence Requirements**]

You have been a lawful permanent resident for five years (general provision)/30 months (913 days)

You are the spouse of a U.S. citizen./18 months (548 days)

You were a member of the U.S. armed forces for at least one year but did not serve during a designated period of hostilities and separated from service more than six months before applying for naturalization./30 months (913 days)

**NOTE:** Time spent outside the United States in the U.S. armed forces counts as time spent in the United States.

You are a U.S. Government employee or contractor abroad./30 months (913 days)

**NOTE:** You are exempt from this requirement if you have an approved Form N-470. You must have had one year of uninterrupted physical presence before you filed Form N-470.

You are employed abroad in a religious vocation./30 months (913 days)

**NOTE:** Time abroad with an approved Form N-470 counts as time in the United States. You must have one year of uninterrupted physical presence in the United States before you file Form N-400.

You are employed by or under contract with the Chief of Mission (Department of State) or the U.S. armed forces as an interpreter, translator, or in a security-related position (executive or manager)./30 months (913 days)

**NOTE:** Your entire period abroad may count as physical presence in the United States if you are engaged in a qualifying employment for any portion of period abroad.

You are a U.S. national./30 months (913 days)

**NOTE:** Time in American Samoa or Swains Island counts as time in the United States.

There is no physical presence requirement (and no requirement to file Form N-470) if you are applying as:

1. A currently serving member of the U.S. armed forces or a former service member who separated from service within six months of applying for naturalization;
2. A veteran who served in an active-duty status in the military, air, or naval forces of the United States or as a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve during a designated period of hostilities;

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3. The spouse of a U.S. citizen residing abroad, if your spouse is employed abroad in a religious vocation or by the U.S. Government, an American Institution of Research, certain American firms or corporations, or a public international organization; or

4. An employee of a U.S. nonprofit organization that principally promotes the interests of the United States abroad through the communications media.

### **Required Evidence**

If you have taken any trips outside the United States that lasted between six months and one year, provide evidence that you maintained your continuous residence in the United States. For example:

1. An IRS tax return transcript listing tax information relevant to your absence for the last five years (or three years if you are applying on the basis of marriage to a U.S. citizen);
2. Rent or mortgage payments and pay statements;
3. Bank, credit card, and loan statements showing regular transactions;
4. Proof of car registration and insurance;
5. Your passport showing entry and exit stamps; and
6. Any other document that shows you have not abandoned your residence in the United States.

### **Early Filing**

If you are applying based on lawful permanent residence for five years, you may file your application up to 90 days before meeting the required five-year period of continuous residence as a lawful permanent resident. If you are applying based on your marriage to a U.S. citizen, you may file up to 90 days before meeting the required three-year period of continuous residence as a lawful permanent resident.

You can use the USCIS Early Filing Calculator to ensure that you file your Form N-400 no earlier than 90 days before you complete the required period. Visit the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/early-filing-calculator](http://www.uscis.gov/early-filing-calculator). USCIS will reject your application if you submit it too early.

Applicants filing up to 90 days before meeting the continuous residence requirement must still meet all other requirements for naturalization at the time of filing Form N-400. For example:

1. If you are applying under INA section 319(a), you must have been married to a U.S. citizen for at least three years at the time you file Form N-400. See the **Eligibility Based on Marriage to a U.S. Citizen** section above in this section for information on applying as the spouse of a U.S. citizen; or
2. If you are applying for an exception to the English testing requirements, you must meet the requirements for the exception (age and years as a lawful permanent resident) at the time you file Form N-400.

### ***Good Moral Character***

#### **Citizenship Claims and Voting**

You may not qualify for naturalization if you previously claimed you were a U.S. citizen or you unlawfully voted in the United States in a Federal, state, or local election.

#### **Taxes**

The failure to pay taxes as required may lead USCIS to determine that you lack good moral character.

### Required Evidence

Provide income tax returns that you filed with the IRS for the past five years, or three years if you are filing for naturalization on the basis of marriage to a U.S. citizen. Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for information on how to obtain copies of your tax documents.

If you have any Federal, state, or local taxes that are overdue, provide:

1. A signed agreement from the IRS or state or local tax office showing you have filed a tax return and have arranged to pay the taxes you owe; and
2. Documentation from the IRS or state or local tax office showing the current status of your repayment program.

### Crimes and Offenses

Committing certain crimes may make you ineligible for naturalization.

Report all offenses that you have committed, including any that have been expunged (removed from your record) and any that happened before you reached 18 years of age. If you do not tell USCIS about these offenses, you may be denied naturalization even if the original offense was not a crime for which your application would have been denied. You must provide the documentation even if someone (including a judge, law enforcement officer, or attorney) told you that you no longer have a record or told you that you do not have to disclose the information.

USCIS will not approve a naturalization application while you are on probation, on parole, or under a suspended sentence. You should provide court evidence showing that your probation, parole, or suspended sentence has ended.

### Required Evidence

See the **Crimes and Offenses Evidence** section below for what evidence you must provide. If any of the required records listed below are unavailable, provide original or certified confirmation that the record is not available from the applicable law enforcement agency or court. You may provide photocopies with your application. At the time of your interview, bring originals or court-certified copies.

### Crimes and Offenses Evidence

[2 column table, first column heading: **If You Have EVER:**/second column heading: **You Must Provide:**]

Been arrested or detained for any reason anywhere in the world and **NO CHARGES WERE FILED/1.** Arrest report; and **2.** An official statement from the arresting agency or applicable court confirming that no charges were filed;

Been arrested or detained for any reason anywhere in the world and **CHARGES WERE FILED/1.** Original or certified copies of all arrest reports, charging documents, court dispositions, sentencing reports, and any other relevant documents; and **2.** Any additional evidence that you would like USCIS to consider concerning the circumstances of your arrests or convictions.

**NOTE:** If you were sentenced to jail or prison or received an alternative sentence or probation, you must also provide evidence to show that you completed your period of jail, prison, alternative sentence, or probation.

Been convicted or placed in an alternative sentence program (such as diversion, deferred prosecution, withheld adjudication, deferred adjudication) or rehabilitative program (including a drug treatment or community service program)/**1.** Sentencing record for each incident; and **2.** Evidence that you completed your alternative sentencing or rehabilitative programs.

Been convicted and/or your sentence was suspended, or you were placed on probation or parole/**1.** Sentencing record for each incident; and **2.** Evidence that you completed your sentence, such as a probation or parole records.

Had any arrest or conviction vacated, set aside, sealed, expunged, received a pardon, or otherwise removed from your record/**1.** Motion to vacate and court order vacating, setting aside, sealing, expunging, pardoning, or otherwise removing the arrest or conviction from your record; **2.** An application or petition for a pardon and final decision granting your application or petition for a pardon; or **3.** A statement from the court that no record exists of your arrest or conviction;

Been in a traffic incident/Documentation of traffic incidents only if the incident: **1.** Involved alcohol or drugs; **2.** Led to an arrest; or **3.** Seriously injured another person.

Been ordered to pay a fine, make restitution, or have your wages garnished?/**1.** Original or certified copies of the order to pay a fine, restitution, or garnish wages; and **2.** Documentation that you have satisfactorily paid the required sum or evidence of current payment.

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### ***Attachment to the U.S. Constitution***

#### **Party or Group Affiliations**

Current and previous membership in certain organizations may indicate lack of good moral character, unlawful admission, or lack of attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution, or indicate that you are not well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States.

#### **Military Discharge**

**1.** If you were ever convicted of desertion from the U.S. armed forces during a time of war, you do not qualify for naturalization.

**2.** If you applied for and received an exemption or discharge from the U.S. armed forces because you did not have lawful immigration status to serve in the military, you may not be eligible for naturalization.

#### **Selective Service**

**1.** Almost all male U.S. citizens and male immigrants who are at least 18 years of age and under 26 are required to register with the Selective Service System. You may visit [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov) for information on your registration.

2. If you refused to or knowingly and willfully did not register for the Selective Service when required, you may be unable to establish an attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution, good moral character, and a willingness to bear arms on behalf of the United States.

### **Required Evidence**

1. If you were required to but did not register with the Selective Service System before you turned 26 years of age, you must provide a status information letter from the Selective Service; and
2. A statement regarding your reasons for failing to register.

**NOTE:** If you are 31 years of age or older (or 29 years of age or older if applying based on being the spouse of a U.S. citizen) at the time you file your Form N-400, you do not need to provide a status information letter or a statement explaining the reason for not registering.

### ***Legal Guardian, Surrogate, or Designated Representative***

When an applicant is unable to undergo any part of the naturalization examination because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment, a legal guardian, surrogate, or an eligible designated representative may complete the naturalization process for the applicant.

### ***Oath of Allegiance***

#### **Modification to the Oath**

You may request a modification to portions of the Oath requiring you to bear arms on behalf of the United States or perform noncombatant service in the U.S. armed forces if you have a religious or conscientious objection to those portions. You may provide an attestation from an organization, a witness statement, or any other evidence to support your objection to bear arms or perform noncombatant service.

#### **Affirmation**

You may request to substitute the words “solemnly affirm” for the words “on oath” and omit “so help me God.” You may request this affirmation instead of an oath for any reason without documentation.

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#### **Oath Waiver**

You may receive a waiver of the Oath of Allegiance if you are unable to understand or to communicate an understanding of the meaning of the Oath because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment. See the **Legal Guardian, Surrogate, or Designated Representative** section above for additional information.

### ***Naturalization Testing and Exceptions***

One of the requirements for naturalization is to take the naturalization test to demonstrate that you are able to read, write, and speak and understand English, and that you have a basic knowledge of civics (U.S. history and government). You may be eligible for an exception from the English reading, writing, and speaking test and qualify to take the civics test in a language of your choice if you answered “Yes” to **Part 2., Item A., B., or C. in Item Number 14.** in Form N-400, stating that you meet certain age and

residency requirements. For additional information about the test, please visit [www.uscis.gov/citizenship](http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship).

You may be eligible for an exception to the English language and/or civics tests due to a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment that has lasted, or is expected to last, 12 months or more. If you are requesting a medical exception to the English language and civics tests, answer “Yes” to **Part 2., Item Number 13.** in Form N-400. You must provide a completed Form N-648, Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions, (available at [www.uscis.gov/N-648](http://www.uscis.gov/N-648)). You should submit Form N-648 at the time you file your Form N-400. This form must have been completed by a qualifying medical professional within six months of submission.

## General Instructions

USCIS provides forms free of charge through the USCIS website. In order to view, print, or fill out our forms, you should use the latest version of Adobe Reader, which you can download for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

**Signature.** Each application must be properly **signed and filed**. For all signatures on this application, USCIS will not accept a stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature. If you are under 14 years of age, your parent or legal guardian may sign the application on your behalf. A legal guardian, surrogate, or designated representative may sign for a person with a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment.

**Validity of Signatures.** USCIS will consider a photocopied, faxed, or scanned copy of the original, handwritten signature valid for filing purposes. The photocopy, fax, or scan must be of the original document containing the handwritten, ink signature.

**Filing Fee.** Each application must be accompanied by the appropriate filing fee and biometric services fee (if applicable). (See the **What Is the Filing Fee** section of these Instructions.)

**Evidence.** Provide the evidence listed in the **General Eligibility Requirements** and **Specific Instructions** sections of these Instructions. At the time of filing, you must submit all evidence as requested. You may also provide the evidence at the time of your interview. If you fail to submit required evidence, USCIS may deny your application for failure to submit requested evidence or supporting documents in accordance with 8 CFR 103.2(b)(1) and these Instructions.

**Biometrics Services Appointment.** USCIS requires that you appear for an interview and provide **biometrics** to verify your identity, obtain additional information, and conduct background and security checks, including a check of criminal history records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), before making a decision on your application **or petition**. After USCIS receives your application and ensures it is complete, we will inform you in writing when you need to attend a biometric services appointment. The notice will provide you the location of your local or designated USCIS Application Support Center (ASC) and the date and time of your appointment. If you are currently **outside the United States**, you must submit two properly completed Form FD-258 fingerprint cards with your Form N-400. The FD-258 cards must be completed at an authorized site such as a U.S. Embassy, U.S. Consulate, or U.S. military installation.

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When you provide biometrics, at your appointment you must sign an oath reaffirming that:

1. You provided or authorized all information in the **application**;
2. You reviewed and understood all of the information contained in, and submitted with, your application; and
3. All of this information was complete, true, and correct at the time of filing.

If you fail to attend your biometric services appointment, USCIS may deny your application.

**Copies.** You should submit legible photocopies of documents requested, unless the Instructions specifically state that you must submit an original document. USCIS may request an original document at the time of filing or at any time during processing of an **application or petition**. If USCIS requests an original document from you, it will be returned to you after USCIS determines it no longer needs your original.

**NOTE:** If you submit original documents when not required or requested by USCIS, **your original documents may be immediately destroyed after we receive them.**

**Translations.** If you submit a document with information in a foreign language, you must also submit a full English translation. The translator must sign a certification that the English language translation is complete and accurate, and that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English. **The certification must also include the translator's signature, printed name, the signature date, and the translator's contact information.**

### **How To Fill Out Form N-400**

1. Type or print legibly in black ink.
2. If you need extra space to complete any item **within this application, attach** a separate sheet of **paper**. **Type** or print your name and Alien Registration Number (A-Number (**USCIS Number**)) (if any) at the top of each **sheet; indicate the Page Number, Part Number, and Item Number** to which your answer **refers; and sign and date each sheet.**
3. Answer all questions fully and accurately. If a question does not apply to you (for example, if you have never been married and the question asks "Provide the name of your current spouse"), type or print "N/A," unless otherwise directed. If your answer to a question, which requires a numeric response, is zero or none (for example, "How many children do you have" or "How many times have you departed the United States"), type or print "None," unless otherwise directed.
4. Avoid highlighting, crossing out, or typing or printing outside the area provided for a response. If you must make substantial corrections to your Form N-400, USCIS recommends that you start a new Form N-400 rather than using correction tape or fluid to correct the information. USCIS scanners may see through the white correction tape or fluid. This may lead to incorrect information being captured in USCIS systems, which may cause processing delays or a rejection (non-acceptance) of your Form N-400.
5. Provide your A-Number (**USCIS Number**) on the top right corner of each page (if any). Your A-Number is located on your Permanent Resident Card (formerly known as the Alien Registration Card). The A-Number on your card consists of a seven to nine digit number, depending on when your record was created. If the A-Number on your card has fewer than nine digits, place enough zeros before the first number to make a total of nine digits on Form N-400. For example, type or print number A1234567 as A001234567 or type or print number A12345678 as A012345678.



6. Your application must be properly completed, signed, and filed. You must include **all** pages when you file Form N-400, even if the pages are blank. A photocopy of the application is acceptable as long as all signatures on the application are handwritten and original. USCIS will not accept a stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature.

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## Specific Instructions

This **application** is divided into 18 parts.

### Part 1. Information About Your Eligibility

**Item Number 1.** Select the box that applies to you. Select only one box. If you select more than one box, your Form N-400 may be delayed.

### Part 2. Information About You (Person applying for naturalization)

**Item Number 1. Your Current Legal Name (Do not provide a nickname).** Your current legal name is the name on your birth certificate unless it changed after birth by a **marriage, divorce,** or court order. Do not provide a nickname.

**Item Number 2. Your Name Exactly As It Appears on Your Permanent Resident Card** (if applicable). Type or print your name exactly as it appears on your Permanent Resident Card even if it is misspelled or has changed through marriage, divorce, or other court order since you received your card. Type or print “N/A” if you do not have a Permanent Resident Card.

**Item Number 3. Other Names Used (if any).** Provide all other names **you have ever used, including** aliases, **maiden name, and nicknames.** If you need extra space to complete this section, use a separate sheet of paper.

**Item Numbers 4. - 5. Name Change** (Optional). A court can allow you to change your name when **you naturalize.** Any name change you request on this application will not be final until you are naturalized by the court. If you want the court to change your name at your naturalization ceremony, select “Yes” and **provide the requested information** to complete this section. You do not need to request a name change if your **legal** name has **already** changed through marriage, divorce, or other court order.

USCIS cannot process name change requests for members of the military, or their spouses, who are **seeking naturalization outside of the United States.**

**Item Number 6. U.S. Social Security Number** (if applicable). Provide your U.S. Social Security number. Type or print “N/A” if you do not have one.

**Item Number 7. USCIS Online Account Number** (if any). If you have previously filed an **application or petition** using the USCIS online filing system (previously called USCIS Electronic Immigration System (USCIS ELIS)), provide the USCIS Online Account Number you were issued by the system. You can find your USCIS Online Account Number by logging in to your account and going to the profile page. If you previously filed certain **applications or petitions** on a paper form **through** a USCIS Lockbox facility, you may have received a USCIS Online Account Access Notice issuing you a USCIS Online

Account Number. **You may find** your USCIS Online Account **Number** at the top of the **notice**. The USCIS Online Account Number is not the same as an **A-Number (USCIS Number)**. If you were issued a USCIS Online Account Number, enter it in the space provided.

**Item Number 8. Gender.** Indicate if you are male or female.

**Item Number 9. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy).** Always use eight numbers to show your date of birth. Type or print the date in this order: month, day, year. **Use this format, mm/dd/yyyy.** USCIS will reject your Form N-400 if you do not provide your date of birth.

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**Item Number 10. Date You Became a Lawful Permanent Resident (mm/dd/yyyy).** Provide the official date when your permanent residence began as shown on your Permanent Resident Card (formerly known as the Alien Registration Card). Provide the date in this order: Month, Day, Year. For example, type or print August 9, 1988, as 08/09/1988. USCIS may reject your application if you are a lawful permanent resident and do not provide the date you became a lawful permanent resident.

**USCIS needs** both your **A-Number (USCIS Number)** and your permanent resident date **(if applicable) in order to process your application.** Where applicable, if you do not have this information, you should schedule an appointment **at your local USCIS field office** to obtain this information before you file your Form N-400. **See the USCIS Forms and Information section of these Instructions for details about scheduling an appointment at your local USCIS field office.**

**Item Number 11. Country of Birth.** Type or print the name of the country in which you were born. Use the name of the country at the time of your birth, even if the name of the country has changed.

**Item Number 12. Country of Citizenship or Nationality.** Type or print the **current** name of the country **of which** you are currently a citizen or national. If the **country's name has changed**, type or print the current name of the **country**. If you are stateless, type or print the name of the country, as it currently exists, where you were last a citizen or **national**. If you are a citizen or national of more than one country, type or print the name of the foreign country that issued your last passport.

**Item Number 13. Disability/Impairment Exceptions to Testing.** Select "Yes" if you are requesting an exception to the English language and/or civics tests based on a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment that prevents you from complying with the English language and/or civics requirements for naturalization. **You must provide a completed Form N-648 (available at [www.uscis.gov/N-648](http://www.uscis.gov/N-648)).** Submitting Form N-648 does not guarantee you will be exempted from the testing requirements. **This form must be completed by the qualifying medical professional within six months of submission.**

**Item Number 14. Exceptions to the English Language Test.** Depending on your age and the length of time you have been a lawful permanent resident, you may not be required to take the English language test. Refer to the **Naturalization Testing and Exceptions in the General Eligibility Requirements** section of these Instructions for information **on exceptions.**

### **Part 3. Information to Contact You**

**Item Numbers 1. - 5.** Provide your current telephone numbers as well as your current email address. Type or print "N/A" if an item is not applicable or if the answer is "none" unless otherwise indicated. If

you are **deaf or hard of hearing** and use a TTY telephone connection, indicate this by **typing or printing** “TTY” after the telephone number.

#### **Part 4. Information About Your Residence**

**Item Number 1.** USCIS requires that you list information about your address history. Refer to **Part 5.** of Form N-400 for information about specific requirements.

#### **Mailing Address**

You must provide a current mailing address. Your physical address will generally determine the location of your biometric services appointment and interview, but USCIS will use your mailing address to mail notices. If you do not provide a current, complete, and valid address, USCIS may reject your Form N-400.

If you are residing outside of the United States, **are applying** under INA section 319(b), and you want USCIS to collect your biometrics in the United States, you must provide an address in the United States. USCIS will send a letter to your U.S. mailing address notifying you when and where to go for your **biometric** services appointment.

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#### **Domestic Violence Victims**

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you are not required to disclose the confidential address of a shelter or safe house. If you are residing in a shelter or safe house at the time of filing this application or you do not feel safe providing your current address, you may provide a “safe address” where you are able to receive mail. Do not provide a Post Office Box number unless that is your only address. If you are not currently residing in a shelter or safe house, but have resided in a shelter or safe house for part of the reporting period, you may provide just the name of the city and state of residence for the shelter or safe house. Further clarification, if needed, will occur at the interview.

Based on the information you provide in **Part 4.** and **Part 7.** of Form N-400, USCIS will determine whether you meet the requirements for continuous residence, physical presence, and three-month residency in a USCIS district or U.S. state.

#### **Part 5. Information About Your Parents**

**Item Numbers 1. - 3. Citizenship of Parents.** Complete **Item Numbers 1., 2., and 3.** in **Part 5.** of **Form N-400.**

If **either** of your parents is a U.S. citizen, complete **Part 5. Information About Your Parents** as part of this application. If **neither** of your parents is a U.S. citizen, skip **Part 5.** and go to **Part 6. Biographic Information.**

If one or both of your parents is a U.S. citizen, select “Yes” and complete **Items A. - E.** in **Item Number 2.** (mother’s citizenship) and **Items A. - E.** in **Item Number 3.** (father’s citizenship) in **Part 5.**

#### **Part 6. Biographic Information**

Provide the biographic information requested in **Part 6., Item Numbers 1. - 6.** Providing this information as part of your application may reduce the time you spend at your USCIS ASC appointment as described in the **Biometric Services Appointment** section of these Instructions.

**Item Numbers 1. - 2. Ethnicity and Race.** Select the boxes that best describe your ethnicity and race.

### **Categories and Definitions for Ethnicity and Race**

**1. Hispanic or Latino.** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. (**NOTE:** This category is only included under Ethnicity in **Part 6., Item Number 1.**)

**5. American Indian or Alaska Native.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

**3. Asian.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**4. Black or African American.** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

**6. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

**2. White.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

**Item Number 3. Height.** Select the values that best match your height in feet and inches. For example, if you are five feet and nine inches, select “5” for feet and “09” for inches. Do not enter your height in meters or **centimeters**.

**Item Number 4. Weight.** Enter your weight in pounds. If you do not know your **weight** or need to enter a weight under 30 pounds or over 699 pounds, enter “000.” Do not enter your weight in kilograms.

**Item Number 5. Eye Color.** Select the box that best describes the color of your eyes.

**Item Number 6. Hair Color.** Select the box that best describes the color of your hair.

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### **Part 7. Information About Your Employment and Schools You Attended**

**Item Numbers 1. - 3.** USCIS requires that you provide specific information about your employment and the schools you have attended for the last five years as it may affect your eligibility for naturalization. Please provide the information about your employment and education history as listed in **Part 8.** of Form N-400.

### **Part 8. Time Outside the United States**

**Item Numbers 1. - 3.** You may need to establish physical presence in the United States. See the **Physical Presence** section in the **General Eligibility Requirements** section of these Instructions. You must list all travel outside the United States since you became a lawful permanent resident or during the last ten years, whichever is shorter.

## **Part 9. Information About Your Marital History**

**Item Numbers 1. - 9.** You must meet certain requirements if you seek to naturalize based on your marriage to a U.S. citizen. If you or your spouse were previously married, you must demonstrate that all of your previous marriages were lawfully terminated. See **Part 9.** of Form N-400 for what information USCIS requires about your current and previous spouses (if applicable).

## **Part 10. Information About Your Children**

If you have children, USCIS needs to obtain certain biographic information about them. Please refer to **Part 10.** of Form N-400 to determine what information USCIS requires about your children (if applicable).

**Item Number 1.** Indicate your total number of children. Count all of your children, regardless of whether they are alive, missing, or deceased; born in other countries or in the United States; under 18 years of age or older; married or unmarried; living with you or elsewhere; current stepchildren; legally adopted children; or children born when you were not married.

**Item Number 2.** Provide information about all your children listed in **Item Number 1.**, regardless of age. If needed, use a separate sheet of paper to provide the information requested. Provide the following information for each child including the child's current legal name; A-Number (**USCIS Number**) (if applicable); date of birth; country of birth (type or print the name of the country at the time of your child's birth, even if the name changed); relationship to you (for example, biological child, stepchild, legally adopted child); and current address.

1. If your son or daughter is living with you, type or print "Child Residing With Me" in the space provided for the child's address;
2. If your son or daughter is not living with you, type or print the address where your child resides; or
3. If your son or daughter is missing or deceased, type or print "Child Missing" or "Child Deceased" in the space provided for the address.

### **Required Evidence**

1. Provide evidence that you are related to your children. For example:

**A.** Birth certificates for all children;

**B.** Court orders naming you as the parent; or

**C.** Final adoption certificates or decrees for all children you have legally adopted.

2. Provide evidence that you have complied with any child and spousal support obligations. If you have dependent children living apart from you, provide evidence that you support each dependent child and that you have complied with any child support obligations. Provide the court or government order and

evidence you have complied with the order if a court has ordered you to provide financial support for a spouse, ex-spouse, or children. For example:

- A. Cancelled checks or money order receipts;
- B. A court or agency document showing child support payments;

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- C. Evidence of wage garnishments; or
- D. A notarized letter from the parent or guardian who cares for your children.

### **Part 11. Additional Information About You** (Person Applying for Naturalization)

Your answers to the questions in **Part 11.** of Form N-400 will help to determine whether you meet the standards for good moral character. In general, you must show good moral character during the required period (for example, five years if you are applying based upon five years as a lawful permanent resident or three years if you are applying as the spouse of a U.S. citizen) before you file your application and up to the time you take the Oath of Allegiance. Some of the questions in **Part 11.** of Form N-400 also relate to national security, your attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution, and other requirements for naturalization.

**Item Numbers 1. - 55.** Answer each question by selecting “Yes” or “No,” where applicable. If any part of a question applies to you or has ever applied to you, you must answer “Yes.” If you answer “Yes” to any of the questions, except **Item Numbers 41., 42., 43., and Item A. in Item Number 49.,** include a typed or printed explanation on a separate sheet of paper. You may also provide evidence to support your answers.

**Item Numbers 50. - 55.** Answer each question by selecting “Yes” or “No.” If you answer “No” to any question, include a typed or printed explanation on a separate sheet of paper. Your answers, whether “Yes” or “No,” will not automatically cause your application to be denied.

### **Part 12. Applicant’s Statement, Contact Information, Certification, and Signature**

**Item Numbers 1. - 3.** Select the appropriate box to indicate whether you read this application yourself or whether you had an interpreter assist you. If someone assisted you in completing the application, select the box indicating that you used a preparer. Further, you (or your legal guardian, surrogate, or designated representative, if applicable) must sign and date your application. Every application **MUST** contain the signature of the applicant (or legal guardian, surrogate, or designated representative, if applicable). A stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature is not acceptable. You may place an “X” mark instead of a signature if you are unable to write in any language. USCIS will reject your Form N-400 if it is not signed.

A legal guardian, surrogate, or designated representative may sign on behalf of an applicant who is unable to understand or communicate an understanding of the Oath of Allegiance or is unable to undergo any part of the naturalization examination because of a disability or impairment. See the **Legal Guardian, Surrogate, and Designated Representative** section in the **General Eligibility Requirements** section of these Instructions. The legal guardian, surrogate, or designated representative may file the application on behalf of the applicant and must have knowledge of the facts supporting the applicant’s eligibility for

naturalization. The legal guardian, surrogate, or designated representative should sign his or her name and type or print “on behalf of [applicant's name].”

### **Part 13. Interpreter’s Contact Information, Certification, and Signature**

**Item Numbers 1. - 7.** If you used anyone as an interpreter to read the Instructions and questions on this application to you in a language in which you are fluent, the interpreter must fill out this **section**; provide his or her name, the name and address of his or her business or organization (if any), his or her daytime telephone number, his or her mobile telephone number (if any), and his or her email address (if any). The interpreter must sign and date the application.

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### **Part 14. Contact Information, Declaration, and Signature of the Person Preparing this Application, if Other Than the Applicant**

**Item Numbers 1. - 8.** This section must contain the signature of the person who completed your application, if other than you, the applicant. If the same individual acted as your interpreter **and** your preparer, that person should complete both **Part 13.** and **Part 14.** If the person who completed this application is associated with a business or organization, that person should complete the business or organization name and address information. Anyone who helped you complete this application **MUST** sign and date the application. A stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature is not acceptable. If the person who helped you prepare your application is an attorney or accredited **representative, he** or she **may also need to** submit a completed Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative, **or Form G-28I, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney In Matters Outside the Geographical Confines of the United States,** along with your application. USCIS will reject your Form N-400 if it is not signed by the preparer you used to prepare the questions on the application.

**NOTE: Do not complete Parts 15., 16., and 17. until a USCIS Officer instructs you to do so at the interview.**

### **Part 15. Signature at Interview**

**Do not** complete this part. The USCIS Officer will ask you to complete this part at your interview.

### **Part 16. Renunciation of Foreign Titles**

**Do not** complete this **part.** The USCIS Officer **may ask you to complete this part** at your interview.

Most people do not have a foreign hereditary title or order of nobility. This part will apply only if you answered “Yes” to **Part 11., Items A. and B., in Item Number 4. of Form N-400.** If you do have a hereditary title or order of nobility, the law requires you to renounce this title as part of your oath ceremony to become a U.S. citizen. In **Part 16. of Form N-400** you must affirm you are ready to do so.

### **Part 17. Oath of Allegiance**

**Do not** complete this part. The USCIS Officer will ask you to complete this part at your interview.

If USCIS approves your application, you must take this Oath of Allegiance to become a U.S. citizen. In limited cases, you can take a modified oath. The oath requirement cannot be waived unless you are unable to understand its meaning because of a physical or developmental disability or mental **impairment.**

Your signature on this application only indicates that you have no objections to taking the Oath of Allegiance. It does not mean that you have taken the oath or that you are naturalized. If USCIS approves your Form N-400 for naturalization, you must attend an oath ceremony and take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

We recommend that you print or save a **copy** of your completed application to review in the future and for your records. **We recommend that you review your copy of your completed application before you go to your biometric services appointment at a USCIS ASC.** At your appointment, USCIS will permit you to complete the application process only if you confirm, under penalty of perjury, that all of the information in your application is complete, true, and correct. If you are not able to make that attestation in good faith at that time, USCIS will require you to return for another appointment.

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### What Is the Filing Fee?

The filing fee for Form N-400 is **\$640**. A biometric services fee of **\$85** is also **required, regardless** of where the applicant lives and whether the applicant is filing from within the United States or abroad.

### Biometric Services Fee Exceptions

You do not have to pay a biometric services **fee if you are a military applicant filing under INA sections 328 or 329.**

USCIS **cannot** accept a biometric services fee if you are not required to pay a biometric services fee.

### Rejected Applications

**USCIS will reject your Form N-400 if you submit the incorrect fee or an incorrect payment method. USCIS also will reject your Form N-400 if you include payment for more than what you are required to pay.**

**In the event USCIS rejects your application, we will return any filing fees with your application.**

Use the following guidelines when you are paying for your application. You must:

1. Pay for each application using a single payment method (check, money order, or credit card) and not a combination of methods; and
2. Use the same payment method for all applications that are mailed together.

**NOTE:** **The** filing fee and biometric services fee are not refundable, regardless of any action USCIS takes on this application. **DO NOT MAIL CASH.** **You must submit all fees in the exact amounts.**

### Payments By **Checks** or **Money Orders**

Use the following guidelines when you prepare your checks or money orders for the Form N-400 filing fee and biometric services fee:



1. The checks or money orders must be drawn on a bank or other financial institution located in the United States and must be payable in U.S. currency; and

2. Make the checks or money orders payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**NOTE:** Spell out U.S. Department of Homeland Security; do not use the initials “USDHS” or “DHS.”

3. If you live outside the United States, contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate for instructions on the method of payment.

**Notice to Those Paying by Check.** If you send USCIS a check, we will convert it into an electronic funds transfer (EFT). This means we will copy your check and use the account information on it to electronically debit your account for the amount of the check. The debit from your account will usually take 24 hours and your bank will show it on your regular account statement.

You will not receive your original check back. We will destroy your original check, but will keep a copy of it. If USCIS cannot process the EFT for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in place of your original check. If your check is returned as unpayable, we will re-submit the payment to the financial institution one time. If the check is returned as unpayable a second time, we will reject your application and charge you a returned check fee.

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### Payments by Credit Card

If you are filing your application at a USCIS Lockbox facility, you can pay your filing fee and biometric services fee using a credit card. Please see Form G-1450, Authorization for Credit Card Transactions, at [www.uscis.gov/G-1450](http://www.uscis.gov/G-1450) for more information.

### How To Check If the Fees Are Correct

Form N-400's filing fee and biometric services fee are current as of the edition date in the lower left corner of this page. However, because USCIS fees change periodically, you can verify that the fees are correct by following one of the steps below.

1. Visit the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov), select “FORMS,” and check the appropriate fee; or
2. Visit the USCIS Contact Center at [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter) to get answers to your questions and connect with a live USCIS representative. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: 1-800-767-1833.

### Fee Reduction

You may be eligible for a fee reduction. To qualify for the reduced fee, your household income must be greater than 150 percent and not more than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, at the time of filing, based on your household size. The Federal Poverty Guidelines are established by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services annually. To obtain information on the current Federal Poverty Guidelines, visit our website at [www.uscis.gov/I-942P](http://www.uscis.gov/I-942P) and review Form I-942P, Income Guidelines for Reduced Fees.

If you believe you are eligible for a fee reduction, complete Form I-942, Request for Reduced Fee, and submit it and any required evidence to support your request with this application. If you are under 75 years of age, there is no reduction available for the biometric services fee. If your request for reduced fee is approved you will pay **\$320** plus **\$85** for a total payment of **\$405**. You do not have to pay a biometric services fee if you are 75 years of age or older.

**NOTE:** USCIS cannot accept a biometric services fee if you are not required to pay a biometric services fee. USCIS will reject your Form N-400 if you submit the incorrect fee or if you attach payment for more than what you are required to pay. In such a case, USCIS will return any filing fees you submitted with your Form N-400.

### **Fee Waiver**

You may be eligible for a fee waiver under 8 CFR 103.7(c). If you believe you are eligible for a fee waiver, complete Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver (or a written request) and submit it and any required evidence of your inability to pay the filing fee with this application. You can review the fee waiver guidance at [www.uscis.gov/feewaiver](http://www.uscis.gov/feewaiver).

### **Re-Filing Form N-400**

If USCIS denied your previously filed Form N-400 and you are filing a new Form N-400, you must pay the full **amount, unless you are eligible for a reduced fee or fee waiver. Otherwise, USCIS will not accept your Form N-400. USCIS cannot apply a previously submitted filing fee amount to a newly filed Form N-400.**

### **Where To File?**

Please see our website at [www.uscis.gov/N-400](http://www.uscis.gov/N-400) or visit the USCIS Contact Center at [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter) to connect with a USCIS representative for the most current information about where to file this application. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

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### **Address Change**

An **applicant who** is not a U.S. citizen must notify USCIS of his or her new address within 10 days of moving from his or her previous residence. For information on filing a change of address, go to the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/addresschange](http://www.uscis.gov/addresschange) or reach out to the USCIS Contact Center at [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter) for help. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

**NOTE:** Do not submit a change of address request to USCIS Lockbox facilities because **the Lockbox does** not process change of address requests.

### **Current Members of the U.S. Armed Forces**

Call the Military Help Line at **1-877-247-4645** if you are transferred to a new duty station after you file your Form N-400, including if you are deployed overseas or to a vessel.

### **Processing Information**

**Any Form N-400 that is not signed or accompanied by the correct filing fee and biometric services fee will be rejected. Any application that is not completed in accordance with these Instructions, is missing pages, or otherwise not executed in its entirety, or is not accompanied by the required initial evidence, may also be rejected. If your Form N-400 is rejected, the application and any fees will be returned to you and you will be notified why the application is considered deficient. You may correct the deficiency and resubmit Form N-400. An application is not considered properly filed until accepted by USCIS.**

**Initial Processing.** Once USCIS accepts your application, we will check it for completeness. If you do not completely fill out this application, you will not establish a basis for your eligibility and USCIS may reject or deny your application.

**Requests for More Information.** USCIS may request that you provide more information or evidence to support your application. We may also request that you provide the originals of any copies you submit. If we request an original document from you, it will be returned to you after USCIS determines it no longer needs your original.

**Requests for Interview.** We will request that you appear at a USCIS office for an interview based on your application. At the time of any interview or other appearance at a USCIS office, we may require that you provide your **biometrics** to verify your identity and/or update background and security checks.

**Decision.** The decision on Form N-400 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for the immigration benefit you are seeking. USCIS will notify you of the decision in writing. **If USCIS denies your application, you may file Form N-336, Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings (Under Section 336 of the INA), with the required fee. If the hearing request is granted, USCIS may review all aspects of the naturalization application and interview with you again to affirm the previous denial or re-determine the decision in whole or in part.**

### **Attorney or Representative**

You may be represented, at no expense to the U.S. Government, by an attorney or other duly accredited representative. Your attorney or representative must submit a Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative, with your Form N-400. Your attorney or representative may also submit the Form G-28 at the time of your interview. Form G-28 can be obtained by visiting the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/G-28](http://www.uscis.gov/G-28), calling the USCIS Forms Request Line at **1-800-870-3676**. **The Forms Request Line offers services in English and Spanish.** For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

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### **USCIS Forms and Information**

To ensure you are using the latest version of this application, visit the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) where you can obtain the latest USCIS forms and immigration-related **information**.

Instead of waiting in line for assistance at your local USCIS office, you can schedule an appointment online at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). Select **“Tools,”** then under **“Self Service Tools,”** select **“Appointments”** and follow the screen prompts to set up your appointment. Once you finish scheduling an appointment, the system will generate an appointment notice for you.

### **Penalties**

If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with **your** Form N-400, **we will** deny your Form N-400 and may deny any other immigration benefit. In addition, you may face **severe** penalties provided by **law and may be subject to criminal prosecution**.

### **USCIS Compliance Review and Monitoring**

By signing this application, you have stated under penalty of perjury (28 U.S.C. section 1746) that all information and documentation submitted with this application is complete, true, and correct. You also authorize the release of any information from your records that USCIS may need to determine your eligibility for the immigration benefit you are seeking and consent to USCIS verifying such information.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has the authority to verify any information you submit to establish eligibility for the immigration benefit you are seeking at any time. USCIS' legal authority to verify this information is in 8 U.S.C. sections 1103, **1155, 1184, and 1446**; and 8 CFR Parts 103, 204, 205, 214, 316, **335**, and 336. To ensure compliance with applicable laws and authorities, USCIS may verify information before or after your case is decided.

Agency verification methods may include, but are not limited to: review of public records and information; contact **through** written correspondence, the internet, **fax**, other electronic transmission, or telephone; unannounced physical site inspections of residences and locations of employment; and interviews. USCIS will use information obtained through verification to assess your compliance with the laws and to determine your eligibility for an immigration benefit.

Subject to the restrictions under 8 CFR 103.2(b)(16), USCIS will provide you with an opportunity to address any adverse or derogatory information that may result from a USCIS compliance review, verification, or site visit **before** a formal decision is made on your case or after the agency has initiated an adverse action which may result in revocation or termination of an approval.

### **DHS Privacy Notice**

**AUTHORITIES:** The information requested on this application, and the associated evidence, is collected under **INA** section 334 [8 U.S.C. 1445].

**PURPOSE:** The primary purpose for providing the requested information on this application is to determine if you have established eligibility for naturalization. USCIS requests the applicant to provide their Social Security number (SSN) to facilitate and expedite the adjudication of the applicant's request. The SSN is used to establish and corroborate the applicant's identity to complete a sufficient background check. DHS **uses** the information you provide to grant or deny the immigration benefit you are seeking.

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**DISCLOSURE:** The information you provide is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information, including **your SSN (if applicable)**, and any requested evidence, may delay a final decision **or** result in denial of your application.

**ROUTINE USES:** DHS may share the information you provide on this application **and any additional requested evidence** with other Federal, state, local, and foreign government agencies and authorized organizations. DHS follows approved routine uses described in the associated published system of records notices [**DHS/USCIS-001 - Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System and DHS/USCIS-007 - Benefits Information System**] **and the published privacy impact assessments**

[DHS/USCIS/PIA-016a Computer Linked Application Information Management System and Associated Systems, DHS/USCIS/PIA-051 Case and Activity Management for International Operations, and DHS/USCIS/PIA-056 USCIS Electronic Immigration System] which you can find at [www.dhs.gov/privacy](http://www.dhs.gov/privacy). DHS may also share **this** information, as appropriate, for law enforcement purposes or in the interest of national security.

### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

An agency may not conduct or sponsor **an** information collection, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at **12 hours** per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering the required documentation and information, completing the application, preparing statements, attaching necessary documentation, and submitting the application. The collection of biometrics is estimated to require 1 hour and 10 minutes. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, 20 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20529-2140; OMB No. 1615-0052. **Do not mail your completed Form N-400 to this address.**