

# Instructions for Form N-400, Application for Naturalization

OMB No. 1615-0052

Expires 09/30/2022

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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 **parent (including legal adoptive parent)** 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 helpful resources and free study materials for the English and civics requirements 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 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 during a time of war;
6. You were convicted of murder (at any time) or an aggravated felony (on or after November 29, 1990);
7. You committed, ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the commission of genocide, torture, extrajudicial killing, or Nazi persecution;
8. You served as a foreign government official and were responsible for or directly carried out particularly severe violations of religious freedom;
9. You are not willing to take the Oath of Allegiance (or a modified version, if qualified); or
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 outside the U.S. 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 outside the United States.

### 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;

3. You have lived within the **U.S.** state or USCIS district where you claim residence for at least **3 months** prior to filing;

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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 the filing of 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 and your spouse’s previous marriages were lawfully terminated. Please see **Part 10.** of Form N-400 for what information we require about your current and previous spouse(s).

Generally, 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 3 years before filing Form N-400;

3. Your spouse must have been a U.S. citizen for at least 3 years before you file Form N-400; and

4. You must have been a lawful permanent resident for at least 3 years.

**NOTE:** If you obtained status as the spouse, former spouse, or intended spouse of a U.S. citizen who subjected you to battery or extreme cruelty, you may be eligible to naturalize without living in marital union with the U.S. citizen spouse for at least 3 years before filing the Form N-400.

### **Required Evidence**

Provide a copy of 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 3 years at the time you file your Form N-400. For example:

A. Your spouse's U.S. birth certificate (if your spouse has held U.S. citizenship since birth);

B. Your spouse's Certificate of Naturalization;

C. Your spouse's Certificate of Citizenship;

D. Your spouse's Form FS-240, Consular Report of Birth Abroad; or

E. The biographical page of your spouse's U.S. passport

2. Current marriage certificate and any divorce decree, annulment decree, or death certificate showing that your and your spouse's 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 3 years at the time you file your Form N-400. Some examples include:

A. Joint bank or credit card statements;

B. Leases or mortgages;

C. Birth certificates of children;

D. Insurance policies; and

E. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax return transcripts for you and your spouse for the past 3 years.

***Eligibility for the Spouse of a U.S. Citizen Working for a Qualified Employer Outside the United States***

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 outside the United States (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 outside the U.S. for a qualified employer;

2. Your U.S. citizen spouse's qualified employment outside the U.S. must be scheduled to last for at least 1 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 outside the U.S. 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 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; and
7. If you are currently outside the United States, you must submit two passport photos. See the **Photograph Requirements for Applicants Residing Outside the United States** section of these Instructions for more information.

If you meet these requirements, you are not required to show any prior residence or period of physical presence within the United States or any state or USCIS district. 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. Evidence that your spouse is a U.S. citizen at the time you file your Form N-400. For examples see *Eligibility Based on Marriage to a U.S. Citizen - Required Evidence* section.
2. Current marriage certificate and any divorce decree, annulment decree, or death certificate showing that your and your spouse's prior marriages were terminated (if applicable); and
3. If your spouse is a U.S. citizen who is regularly stationed outside the U.S., provide evidence demonstrating your U.S. citizen spouse's qualified employment outside the United States. 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; and
  - C. Documentation to establish the employing entity is:

(1) The U.S. Government;

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(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) An American firm or corporation 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.

4. In addition, provide the following:

A. If applicable, your U.S. citizen spouse's travel orders which include your name as a spouse;

B. Documentation to establish your spouse's qualified employment outside the U.S. is scheduled to last for at least 1 year from the date you file Form N-400; and

C. A typed or printed statement of your intent to reside outside the U.S. with your spouse and to live in the U.S. immediately after your spouse's qualified employment outside the U.S. ends.

***Spouse of a Member of the U.S. Armed Forces***

If you are the lawful permanent resident spouse of a member of the U.S. armed forces who is authorized to accompany the member and reside abroad with the member pursuant to the member's official orders, provide the following evidence:

1. Documentation you are authorized to accompany the member pursuant to the member's official orders; and

2. Documentation of military service of the member of the U.S. armed forces.

***Eligibility for Current and Former Members of the U.S. Armed Forces***

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

If you are or were a member of the U.S. armed forces, 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, you may be naturalized even if you are under 18 years of age.

**Required Evidence**

1. All current members of the U.S. armed forces must submit an original or a copy of a completed Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service. A certifying official must complete Form N-426 within six months of submission of Form N-400 to USCIS, except in cases where the applicant is a Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) recruit who enlisted in the Selected Reserve through the MAVNI program before October 13, 2017.

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, whether inside or outside the United States, you should submit a photocopy of your official military orders. Do not submit an original DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge, or original military orders.

3. If you have ever been separated from the U.S. armed forces, provide copies of your DD Form 214, NGB Form 22, or other official discharge document for all periods of service.

For additional information on eligibility requirements visit [www.uscis.gov/military](http://www.uscis.gov/military). If you are in the U.S. armed forces, are a family member of a person in the U.S. armed forces, or are a veteran, you may contact the Military Help Line for information at 1-877-CIS-4MIL (1-877-247-4645) or visit [www.uscis.gov/military/military-help-line](http://www.uscis.gov/military/military-help-line).

4. 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.

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

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

In general, you must show that you have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence in accordance with all applicable provisions of the INA in effect at the time of admission or adjustment. This requirement applies to your initial admission as a lawful permanent resident (LPR) or adjustment to LPR status, as well as all subsequent reentries to the United States.

In addition, you must show that you have not abandoned your LPR status. Abandonment of LPR status occurs when an LPR demonstrates their intent to no longer reside in the United States as an LPR after departing the United States.

### ***Time as a Lawful Permanent Resident***

You must be a lawful permanent resident for 5 years before applying for naturalization unless you are:

- Applying for naturalization based on service in the U.S. armed forces;
- Applying for naturalization based on being a spouse of a U.S. citizen, including the spouse of a U.S. citizen in qualified employment outside the United States; or
- A U.S. noncitizen national (person born in American Samoa or Swains Island).

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

A U.S. noncitizen national (person born in American Samoa or Swains Island) may apply for naturalization without lawful permanent resident status.

### **Applicants for Naturalization Based on Military Service During a Time of Conflict**

An applicant for naturalization under INA 329 (service during hostilities) may apply for naturalization without lawful permanent resident status, if they were in the United States or certain other specified areas at the time of enlistment, reenlistment, extension of enlistment, or induction.

### **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 we can approve your application for naturalization. You must file Form I-751 within 90 days before your conditional permanent resident status expires, 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 outside the U.S. 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. If you lost your Permanent Resident Card or your card has expired or will expire within six months after you file Form N-400, file Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card.

### ***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 a full face, frontal view, on a white to off-white background. Head height should measure 1 to 1 3/8 inches from the top of your hair to the bottom of your chin, and eye height should measure between 1 1/8 and 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 all of the trips you have taken outside the United States since you became a lawful permanent resident or during the last 10 years, whichever is shorter. Please see **Part 9**, of Form N-400 regarding what information we require 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.

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“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 5 years; or



2. If you are applying based on being a spouse to a U.S. citizen, the requirement is at least 3 years.

The USCIS officer will review your travel history and documents during your naturalization interview to determine if you meet this requirement. You will not meet the continuous residence requirement if you left the United States for a continuous period of 1 year or more without our 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 more than 6 months but less than 1 year, you must demonstrate that you did not break the continuity of your residence in the United States.

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

1. You did not terminate your employment in the United States or work while outside the United States;
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 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 outside the U.S. as residence in the United States for naturalization purposes. Please refer to **Part 9.** of Form N-400 regarding what information we require 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 outside the United States./You may preserve your continuous residence by filing Form N-470, Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes.

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

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

Employee of a public international organization of which the United States is a member by a treaty or statute and by which the applicant was not employed until after becoming a lawful permanent resident/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 outside the U.S. 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 outside the U.S. may count as continuous residence in the U.S. if you engaged in qualifying employment for any portion of the period outside the United States.

Employed in religious vocation outside the United States./The time you resided outside the U.S. in a religious vocation may count as residence in the United States if you file Form N-470 at any time before you file the N-400, even after you return to the United States.

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### **Preserving Residence**

If you were absent for 1 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**

In general, you must have resided in the same USCIS district or the same U.S. state for at least 3 months before filing Form N-400. Please refer to **Part 5** of Form N-400 for what information we require about your address history.

You can find your USCIS 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 district where they go to school or in the USCIS district where their parents live if they are still financially dependent on their parents.

### **Physical Presence**

Certain applicants must 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.

In general, you must have been physically present in the United States for a period or periods totaling at least half of the required continuous residence period. We 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.

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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 we require 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 1 year but did not serve during a designated period of hostilities and separated from service more than 6 months before applying for naturalization.  
**NOTE:** Time spent outside the United States in the U.S. armed forces counts as time spent in the United States.  
/30 months (913 days)

You are a U.S. Government employee or contractor outside the United States.  
**NOTE:** You are exempt from this requirement if you have an approved Form N-470. You must have had 1 year of uninterrupted physical presence before you filed Form N-470.  
/30 months (913 days)

You are employed outside the U.S. in a religious vocation.  
**NOTE:** Time outside the U.S. with an approved Form N-470 counts as time in the United States. You must have 1 year of uninterrupted physical presence in the United States before you file Form N-400.  
/30 months (913 days)

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).  
**NOTE:** Your entire period outside the U.S. may count as physical presence in the United States if you are engaged in qualifying employment for any portion of the period outside the United States.  
/30 months (913 days)

You are a U.S. national.  
**NOTE:** Time in American Samoa or Swains Island counts as time in the United States.  
/30 months (913 days)

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 6 months of applying for naturalization;
2. A veteran who served in an active-duty status in the U.S. armed forces 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 currently residing outside the U.S., if your spouse is employed outside the U.S. in a religious vocation or by the U.S. Government, an American Institution of Research, certain American firms or corporations, or certain public international organizations; or

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

### **Required Evidence**

If you have taken any trips outside the United States that lasted more than 6 months but less than 1 year, provide evidence that you maintained your continuous residence in the United States. For example:

1. An IRS tax transcript listing tax information relevant to your absence for the last 5 years (or 3 years if you are applying on the basis of marriage to a U.S. citizen);
2. Rent or mortgage statements, or pay statements;
3. Bank, credit card, or 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 that you maintained your residence in the United States.

### **Early Filing**

If you are applying based on lawful permanent residence for 5 years, you may file your application up to 90 days before meeting the required 5-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 3-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). We 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 3 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 request an exception to the English testing requirements, you must meet the requirements for the exception (age and years as a lawful permanent resident) when 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**

If you have failed to pay taxes as required, we may determine that you lack good moral character.

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### **Required Evidence**

Tax transcripts are not required for every case. However, USCIS strongly encourages you to bring your IRS tax transcripts, especially if you are filing based on marriage to a U.S. citizen or have traveled outside the United States for a period that lasted more than 6 months. If you have any federal, state, or local taxes that are overdue, provide:

1. IRS tax transcripts for the past 5 years, or 3 years if filing for naturalization on the basis of marriage to a U.S. citizen;
2. 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
3. Documentation from the IRS or state or local tax office showing the current status of your repayment program.

**NOTE:** Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for information on how to obtain copies of your tax documents.

### **Crimes and Offenses**

Committing certain crimes may make you ineligible for naturalization.

Report all offenses that you have committed, including any offenses involving solicitation, domestic violence, or driving under the influence, any offenses that have been expunged (removed from your record), and any offenses that happened before you reached 18 years of age. If you do not tell us 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 report the offense and 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. If documentation is no longer available, you must provide documentation from the proper jurisdiction indicating the records are no longer available.

We 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.

### **Evidence Required at the Time of Filing**

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.

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## 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.** An 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 us 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.** The 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.** The sentencing record for each incident; and **2.** Evidence that you completed your sentence, such as probation or parole records.

Had any arrest or conviction vacated, set aside, sealed, expunged, or otherwise removed from your record, or received a pardon/**1.** A motion to vacate and court order vacating, setting aside, sealing, expunging, 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 or 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.

You must provide a full list of all your memberships and affiliations, regardless of the type of group.

**Item Numbers 16. and 17. in Part 12. Additional Information About You** refer to a group, which may include but is not limited to a criminal street gang, transnational criminal organization, terrorist organization, or violent criminal gang.

### **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 between 18 and 26 years of age must register with the Selective Service System. You must register before you apply for naturalization. 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.

### **Evidence Required at the Time of Filing**

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) when 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***

If you cannot undergo any part of the naturalization examination because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment, you may have a legal guardian, a surrogate, or an eligible designated representative complete the naturalization process for you.

### **Evidence Required**

1. Provide a court order authorizing the legal guardian or surrogate to exercise authority over the applicant's affairs. In the absence of a legal guardian or surrogate, a U.S. citizen spouse, parent, adult son or daughter, or adult brother or sister who is the primary custodial caregiver and who takes responsibility for the applicant can serve as the designated representative. The family member must provide documentation to establish a familial relationship between the applicant and the designated representative, as well as proof that the designated representative is the primary custodial caregiver and takes responsibility for the applicant.

2. If unable to take the Oath, provide a written request and a written evaluation by an authorized medical professional licensed to practice in the United States certifying the applicant's inability to understand or communicate an understanding of the Oath of Allegiance.

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### *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.

#### **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 requirement for naturalization is to take the naturalization test to demonstrate that you are able to read, write, 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 Number 15., Items A., B., or C.** 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 14.** in Form N-400 and submit a completed Form N-648, Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions (available at [www.uscis.gov/N-648](http://www.uscis.gov/N-648)) with your N-400.

#### **General Instructions**

USCIS provides forms free of charge through the USCIS website. 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/>.



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**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**. **A legal guardian, surrogate, or designated representative may also sign for a person who is unable to understand or communicate an understanding of the Oath of Allegiance because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment.** If the application is not signed or if the signature on the application is not valid, USCIS will reject the application. See 8 CFR 103.2(a)(7)(ii)(A). If USCIS accepts an application for adjudication and determines that it has a deficient signature, USCIS will deny the application.

**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 with your Form N-400 application. 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. USCIS strongly encourages you to provide any additional or updated evidence at the time of your interview, for example, IRS tax transcripts.

**Biometric Services Appointment.** USCIS may require 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. After USCIS receives your application and ensures it is complete, we will inform **you** if you need to attend a biometric services appointment. **If an appointment is necessary, 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.

**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 **they are** 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.

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2. If you need extra space to complete any item **within this application, use the space provided in Part 16. Additional Information.** Type or print your name **and 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. **The A-Number (USCIS Number) may be located on the front or back of the card, depending on when the card was issued.**

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.

## **Specific Instructions**

**This application is divided into 19 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 or if you do not select any boxes, your Form N-400 may be delayed or rejected.

## 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.

**Item Number 2. Your Name Exactly As It Appears on Your Permanent Resident Card (if you have one).** 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 Since Birth.** Provide all other names you have ever used, including aliases, maiden name, family name at birth, assumed names, nicknames, and alternate spellings or variations of names. Include any names used in previous immigration applications, petitions, or removal proceedings; any names provided to immigration officers, CBP, or ICE; and any names used in any federal, state or local criminal arrests, citations, or proceedings. If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in **Part 16. Additional Information.**

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**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.

We 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.** Provide your U.S. Social Security number. Type or print “N/A” if you do not have one.

**Item Number 9. Gender.** Indicate if you are male or female.

**Item Number 10. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy).** In addition to providing your actual date of birth, include any other dates of birth you have used including dates used in connection with any legal names or non-legal names in the space provided in **Part 16. Additional Information.** Provide your date of birth in this order: Month, Day, Year. Use eight numbers to show your date of birth in the mm/dd/yyyy format. We will reject your Form N-400 if you do not provide your date of birth.

**Item Number 11. 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. Use eight numbers to show the date you became a lawful permanent resident in the mm/dd/yyyy format. We may reject your application if you are a lawful permanent resident and do not provide the date you became a

lawful permanent resident.

We need 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 contact the USCIS Contact Center at [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter) to schedule an appointment at your local USCIS field office to obtain this information before you file your Form N-400.

**Item Number 12. 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 13. 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 **in this Item Number**. **Provide information about additional countries of citizenship or nationality using Part 16. Additional Information.**

**Item Number 14. Disability 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. **If you answer "Yes," you must provide a completed Form N-648 (available at [www.uscis.gov/N-648](http://www.uscis.gov/N-648)) when you file your Form N-400. Submitting Form N-648 does not guarantee we will exempt you from the testing requirements.**

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**Item Number 15. 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. Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities**

USCIS is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with **disabilities that** will help them fully participate in USCIS programs and **activities**. Reasonable accommodations vary with each **individual and may** involve modifications to practices or procedures. **USCIS considers requests for reasonable accommodations on a case-by-case basis. Requesting and/or receiving an accommodation will not affect your eligibility for an immigration benefit.**

You may request an accommodation in this section or you can request an accommodation at any other time in the process at [www.uscis.gov/accommodations](http://www.uscis.gov/accommodations).

Examples of **accommodations** include but are not limited to:

1. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, USCIS may provide you with a sign-language interpreter at an interview or other **USCIS** appointment;
2. If you are blind or have low vision, USCIS may permit you to take a test orally rather than in writing;  
or

3. If you are unable to travel to a designated USCIS location for an interview, USCIS may visit you at your home or hospital to conduct the naturalization interview.

If you believe that you need USCIS to accommodate your **disability**, select “Yes” in **Item Number 1**, and then any applicable box, **Items A. - C.** If you select any of the boxes, you must also describe the types of **accommodation(s)** you are requesting in the text box.

Do **not** select “Yes” in Item Number 1:

1. To inform USCIS that you have a disability or health issue, when you are not also requesting an accommodation;
2. To inform USCIS that you submitted Form N-648, Medical Certification of Disability Exception;
3. To inform USCIS that you are eligible for an exemption based on your age and time residing in the United States as a lawful permanent resident; or
4. To inform USCIS that you need a foreign language interpreter due to your inability to understand English.

If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in **Part 16. Additional Information.**

**NOTE:** All domestic USCIS facilities are wheelchair accessible.

For additional information, go to [www.uscis.gov/about-us/disability-accommodations-for-the-public](http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/disability-accommodations-for-the-public).

#### **Part 4. 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.”

#### **Part 5. Information About Your Residential Addresses**

Based on the information you provide in **Part 5.** and **Part 9.** of Form N-400, we will determine whether you meet the requirements for continuous residence, physical presence, and 3-month residency in a USCIS district or U.S. state.

**Item Number 1.** You must 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 we will use your mailing address to mail notices. If you do not provide a current, complete, and valid mailing address, we may reject your Form N-400.

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

## 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.

## Part 6. Information About Your Parents

If **one or both of your parents (including legal adoptive parents)** is a **U.S. citizen**, provide the requested information about your U.S. citizen parent(s). If only one of your parents is a U.S. citizen, provide the requested information for that parent (mother or father).

## Part 7. Biographic Information

Provide the biographic information requested in **Part 7., 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.

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## 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 7., Item Number 1.**)
- 2. 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.
- 5. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- 6. 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.

## **Part 8. Information About Your Employment and Schools You Attended**

**Item Numbers 1. - 3.** Provide specific information about your employment and the schools you have attended for the last 5 years, whether inside or outside the United States. Provide the information about your employment and education history as instructed in **Part 8.** of Form N-400. If you need more space to complete this Part, use the space provided in **Part 16. Additional Information.**

## **Part 9. Time Outside the United States**

**Item Numbers 1. - 3.** You may need to establish continuous residence and physical presence in the United States. You may also need to establish that you have not abandoned your LPR status. See the **Lawful Permanent Resident Status and Continuous Residence and Physical Presence Requirements** sections 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 10 years, whichever is shorter.

## **Part 10. 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 and your spouse’s previous marriages were lawfully terminated. See **Part 10.** of Form N-400 for the information you must provide about your current and previous spouses.

**Item Number 1. What is your current marital status?** Select your marital status on the date you file your Form N-400.

If you are single and have never been married, write “N/A” in every field of this Part and go to **Part 11. Information About Your Children.**

**Item Number 2. If you are married, is your spouse a current member of the U.S. armed forces?** If you are married, indicate if your spouse is a current member of the U.S. **armed forces.**

**Item Number 3. How many times have you been married?** Your response should include your current marriage, any marriages before or during your current marriage, marriages in the United States, marriages in other countries, annulled marriages, civil marriages, customary or religious marriages, marriages to other people, and marriages to the same **person, whether or not the marriage was registered with a government.** Type or print the number of times you **have been** married. If you were married to the same person more than one time, count each time as a separate marriage.

### ***Information About Your Current Marriage***

If you are currently married, including if you are legally separated, provide the information requested in **Item Numbers 4.-8.** If you are not currently married or legally separated, write “N/A” in every field of this section of Form N-400.

**Item Number 4.** If you are now married, provide the requested information about your current spouse.

**Item Number 5. Is your current spouse a U.S. citizen?** Select the box to indicate whether your current spouse is a U.S. citizen.

**Item Number 6.** If your current spouse is a U.S. citizen, select the box that indicates when your spouse became a U.S. citizen. If your current spouse became a U.S. citizen after birth, provide the date they became a U.S. citizen.

**Item Number 7.** Provide the requested information if your spouse is not a U.S. citizen.

**Item Number 8. How many times has your current spouse been married?** Your response should include your current marriage, any marriages before or during your current marriage, marriages in the United States, marriages in other countries, annulled marriages, civil marriages, customary or religious marriages, marriages to other people, and marriages to the same person, whether or not the marriage was registered with a government). If your current spouse has been married before, provide the requested information about your current spouse’s prior spouse, including your current spouse’s prior spouse’s full legal name, current immigration status, date of birth, country of birth, country of citizenship or nationality, date of marriage with prior spouse, date marriage with prior spouse ended, and how the marriage with the prior spouse ended. If your current spouse had more than one previous marriage, use the space provided in **Part 16. Additional Information** to provide the information requested. If your spouse was married to the same person more than one time, provide the requested information about each marriage separately.

### ***Information About Your Prior Marriages***

**Item Number 9.** If you were married before, provide the information requested in **Item Number 9.** Provide information about your prior spouse including their full legal name, immigration status, date of birth, country of birth, country of citizenship or nationality, date of your marriage with your prior spouse, date your marriage with your prior spouse ended, and how your marriage with your prior spouse ended. If you have more than one previous marriage, provide that information in **Part 16. Additional Information.** If you were married to the same person more than one time, provide the requested information about each marriage separately. If you were not married before, write “N/A” in every field of this section of Form N-400.

### **Part 11. Information About Your Children**

**Item Number 1.** Indicate your total number of children regardless of their age and marital status. (You must indicate **ALL** children, including: children who are alive, missing, or deceased; children born in the United States or in other countries; children living with you or elsewhere; current stepchildren; legally adopted children; **and** children born when you were not married, when you were in a civil marriage (whether or not the child’s other parent was your spouse), or when you were in a customary or religious marriage (whether or not the child’s other parent was your spouse).

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**Item Number 2.** Provide information about all your children listed in **Item Number 1.**, regardless of age. If needed, use **the space provided in Part 16. Additional Information** to provide the information requested. Provide the following information for each child including the child's current legal name; **name of child's other parent**; A-Number (**USCIS Number**); 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); **country of citizenship or nationality**; 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.

**Name of Child's Other Parent.** If the child was adopted, provide the name of the adoptive parent.

### **Evidence Required**

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 that 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;

C. Evidence of wage garnishments; or

D. A notarized letter from the parent or guardian who cares for your children.

### **Part 12. Additional Information About You (Person Applying for Naturalization)**

Your answers to the questions in **Part 12.** 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, 5 years if you are applying based on 5 years as a lawful permanent resident or 3 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 12.** 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. - 25.** If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, you must provide additional information in the space provided in **Part 16. Additional Information**.

**Item Numbers 26. - 36.** If any of these questions apply to you, you must answer "Yes" even if your records have been sealed, expunged, or otherwise cleared. Include all crimes or offenses, including crimes or offenses related to domestic violence and driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. You must disclose this information even if someone, including a judge, law enforcement officer, or attorney, told you that it no longer constitutes a record or told you that you do not have to disclose the information. If you answer "Yes" to any question in **Item Numbers 28. - 35.**, then provide the information requested in the table at **Item Number 36**.

**Item Numbers 37. - 49.** If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, you must provide additional information in the space provided in **Part 16. Additional Information**. Also, provide any evidence to support your answers.

**Item Numbers 50. - 55.** Answer each question by selecting "Yes" or "No." If you answer "No" to any question, provide an explanation using the space provided in **Part 16. Additional Information**.

**Item Number 56.** If you indicate that you are unable to take the Oath because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment, provide an explanation using the space provided in **Part 16. Additional Information**.

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### **Part 13. Applicant's Statement, 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 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 full legal name and type or print "on behalf of [applicant's name]."

### **Part 14. 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.

### **Part 15. 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 14.** and **Part 15.** 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 17., 18., and 19. until a USCIS Officer instructs you to do so at the interview.**

### **Part 17. Signature at Interview**

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

### **Part 18. 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 12., Item Number 4., Items A. and B. 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 18. of Form N-400** you must affirm you are ready to do so.

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### **Part 19. 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 **may** take a modified **Oath.** See the **Oath of Allegiance section in the General Eligibility Requirements section of these Instructions.** The **Oath** requirement cannot be waived unless you are unable to understand **or communicate** 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 a **naturalization** 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 are able to 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.

### 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 **inside or outside** the United States. **The total payment is \$725.**

**NOTE:** Members and veterans of the U.S. armed forces filing under section 328 or 329 of the INA are not required to pay the filing fee or the 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.**

### Payments by Check or Money Order

Use the following guidelines when you are paying for your **application**.

- 1. The check or money order must be drawn on a bank or other financial institution located in the United States and must be payable in U.S. currency;**
- 2. Make the check or money order 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. You must submit only one check, money order, or credit card payment for each application;**
- 4. Use the same payment method for all applications that are mailed together; and**
- 5. If you live outside the United States, contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. consulate for instructions on the method of payment.**

**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.

**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.

## 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.

**NOTE:** By completing this transaction, you agree that you have paid for a government service and that the filing fee, biometric services fee and all related financial transactions are final and not refundable, regardless of any action USCIS takes on an application, petition or request, or how long USCIS takes to reach a decision. **DO NOT MAIL CASH.** You must submit all fees in the exact amounts.

## 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. 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.

## 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).

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## Re-Filing Form N-400

If **we** 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, **we will not accept your Form N-400. We 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**.

## Address Change

You must notify USCIS of **your** new address within 10 days of moving from **your** 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 **the** 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 **outside the United States** 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.** **Before** 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 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.

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**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.

### **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) or by contacting the USCIS Contact Center at [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter). The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: 1-800-767-1833.

### **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.

Please visit us at [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter) to get basic information about immigration services and ask questions about a pending case. Through our digital self-help tools and live assistance, the USCIS Contact Center provides a pathway for you to get consistent, accurate information and answers to immigration case questions.

### **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 will 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 **INA sections 103, 332, 335, and 336**; and 8 CFR Parts **103, 316, 332, 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.

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### **DHS Privacy Notice**

**AUTHORITIES:** The information requested on this application, and the associated evidence, is collected under the Immigration and Nationality Act **Section 334**.

**PURPOSE:** The primary purpose for providing the requested information on this application is to determine if you have established eligibility for **naturalization**. **DHS uses the** information you provide to grant or deny the immigration benefit you are seeking. **DHS may also use the information you provide to determine your eligibility for any public recognition program at the discretion of the agency.**

**DISCLOSURE:** The information you provide is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information, including **your Social Security Number (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 DHS/USCIS-018 Immigration Biometric and Background Check System**]. For further details on relevant information sharing practices, see the **published privacy impact assessments [DHS/USCIS/PIA-015 Computer Linked Application Information Management System 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 **13 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, Office of Policy and Strategy, **Regulatory Coordination Division, 5900 Capital Gateway Drive, Mail Stop #2140, Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009**; OMB No. 1615-0052. **Do not mail your completed Form N-400 to this address.**