



City University of New York

## **Citizenship and Immigration Project**

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### **INTRODUCTION\***

The CUNY Citizenship and Immigration Project prepared this Guide to help our permanent resident students become U.S. citizens. It is part of our continuing effort to provide services to immigrant students. It reflects the City University's historical commitment to offer educational opportunity and excellence to all.

If you are a CUNY student, you may receive additional advice from your college's Citizenship Coordinator. For the name and phone number of the CUNY Citizenship Coordinator nearest you, check the listing at the end of this booklet.

When you apply for naturalization, you give the INS the opportunity to review your immigration history. If you have any reason to believe that the INS may question your right to become a U.S. citizen or to remain in the United States, speak to an immigration law expert before submitting your application. If you have ever been arrested or charged with a crime, it is particularly important that you speak to an expert. Depending on your record, your filing for naturalization could result in your being deported. To get advice about your case, contact your Citizenship Coordinator, who will ask a CUNY immigration backup center to review your case. You can also get help from one of the many not-for-profit organizations that provide free or low-cost immigration law advice. You'll find the addresses and phone numbers of the CUNY centers and some not-for-profit agencies at the end of this guide.

Good luck with your citizenship application.

Allan Wernick, Chair  
CUNY Citizenship and Immigration Project

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## ***SECTION 1: REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURALIZATION***

If you are a permanent resident, you can become a U.S. citizen through the process called **naturalization** if you meet the following requirements:

1. You have resided in the United States as a permanent resident continuously for five years. (You can qualify after only three years of permanent residence if you have been married to, and living with, a U.S. citizen during those three years.)
2. You have been physically present in the United States for half of the five (or three) year period.
3. You are a person of good moral character.
4. You have a basic knowledge of U.S. government and history.
5. You are able to read, write, and speak simple English (with exceptions for some older, long-time or disabled permanent residents.)
6. You are at least 18 years of age and legally competent to take an oath of allegiance to the United States.
7. You express your allegiance to the U.S.

As you will learn, the law provides exceptions to many of these requirements.

### **CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT**

To be naturalized, you must have resided continuously in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for at least five years before being naturalized. If you are a spouse of a U.S. citizen, you can naturalize three years after becoming a permanent resident if you have been married to and living with the U.S. citizen for the entire three years. The five or three years required is sometimes referred to as the **statutory period**.

**Continuous residence** doesn't mean that you must have been in the United States without ever leaving during the statutory period. It does mean, however, that during the five (or three) years before naturalization (See Section II, Part 7, page 8):

1. You did not abandon your permanent residence.
2. The United States was your principal residence.
3. You have not been out of the country for more than one year at a time, or 365 consecutive days straight. An absence of over a year breaks the continuity of your residence.

If you are going abroad to work for a U.S. business or research institution, to do religious work, or to work for the U.S. government, you may be absent for more than a year without breaking your continuous residence, if you get prior approval to do so from the INS.

## PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT

In order to be naturalized you must have been physically present in the United States for half of the required five (or three) year statutory period of continuous residence. You will be required to count the total number of days outside the U.S. (See Section II, Part 7, page 8 of this guide).

## GOOD MORAL CHARACTER REQUIREMENT

**Good moral character** does *not* mean moral excellence. If you have a record of criminal activity; have failed to pay required family support; have had problems with alcohol or drugs; have been involved in illegal gambling, prostitution, or procuring; have failed to pay your taxes; have failed to register with the selective service; or have lied to the INS to gain immigration benefits, you may fail the good moral character requirement. Parking tickets, disorderly conduct convictions, and many other minor offenses usually will not prevent you from proving that you have good moral character. However, the INS may contend that you don't have good moral character if you have repeated convictions for minor violations.

The question of who has "good moral character" under U.S. laws is not easy to answer. If you have any doubts, particularly regarding a criminal record, you should speak to an immigration law expert before filing your naturalization application.

Unlike most applicants for permanent residence, you can be naturalized even if you have been receiving welfare.

### Good Moral Character and Criminal Activity

If you have committed a crime, the INS may find you ineligible for naturalization.

If you're convicted of some specified serious crimes, called aggravated felonies, you may be permanently barred from naturalization. Other crimes may not be a permanent bar to naturalization, but are grounds for deportation.

If you have been arrested or charged with a crime, you need to get information about your criminal record before we can help you decide whether you qualify for U.S. citizenship. First, get a **Good Conduct Certificate** at One Police Plaza in downtown Manhattan near the Brooklyn Bridge. The police will charge you a fee, take your fingerprints and give you a date to return to pick up the certificate. Then, go to the Clerk of the Court in the County/Borough or City where you were arrested or charged, and get a **Certificate of Disposition** for every arrest or charge. Bring the Good Conduct Certificate and any Certificates of Disposition to the Citizenship Coordinator at your campus.

Parking tickets and most traffic offenses will not keep you from becoming a U.S. citizen.

### Child Support

If you willfully fail to meet your child support obligations, you do not have good moral character for naturalization purposes. Child support refers to financial support that you provide your children when they are not living with you.

How does the INS know whether you are meeting your child support obligations? On INS Form N-400, the naturalization application, you are asked whether you are separated or divorced and

whether you are living with or apart from your spouse. Sometimes an interview notice will advise you to bring in your divorce decree and any papers relating to the divorce. You may be required to produce documentation that you have met your obligations, such as canceled checks. The INS may check with the person caring for your children or ask you to get a letter from them confirming that you are supporting your children.

### **Other Common Indications of a Lack of Good Moral Character**

A habitual drunkard or a user or dealer of drugs is not a person of good moral character. The same is true if you earn income from illegal gambling, prostitution, or drug dealing. If you have been arrested for one of these activities and currently have no visible means of support, the INS may wonder if you are still engaging in illegal activity.

If you are a polygamist or have ever smuggled aliens into the United States for economic gain, you will fail to meet the good moral character requirement.

### **CIVIC KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENT**

To naturalize, you must have a basic understanding of the history and government of the U.S. You must correctly answer questions from a list of 100 questions provided by the INS (see Appendix: 100 Civic Knowledge Questions). If you are over 65 years of age and you have been a permanent resident for 20 years, you need to answer only 6 out of 10 simple questions from a list of 25. If you cannot learn due to a mental or physical disability, you are exempt from having to pass a test of civic knowledge.

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

With the limited exceptions discussed below, every naturalization applicant must pass an English speaking, reading, and writing test. If a question arises at the interview that needs to be discussed in detail--for instance whether you made required child support payments--you have the right to have that discussion in your native language.

You are exempt from the English language requirement if you have been a permanent resident for periods totaling at least 20 years and you are over 50 years old or if you have been a permanent resident for periods totaling at least 15 years and you are over 55 years old. If you qualify for this exemption, you must still pass a civics and history test, but the INS will test you in your native language. If you are incapable of writing, reading, or speaking because of a mental or physical disability, you are exempt from the English language requirement. You are also exempt if a mental or physical disability prevents you from learning English or government.

### **AGE AND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT**

To be naturalized, you must be at least 18-years old and you must be legally competent. This means you must have the mental capacity to take an oath of allegiance to the United States. Children of applicants for naturalization who are under 18 years of age may sometimes automatically acquire citizenship through their parents.

## **ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT**

To become a U.S. citizen, you must express your allegiance to the United States and our form of government. As part of the naturalization process, you must take an oath of allegiance to the United States. You must be willing to either bear arms on behalf of the United States or perform some form of military service or civilian work of national importance.

## **SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS: VETERANS AND THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE**

(Applicants who served in the U.S. Military must submit INS form G-325B with their naturalization application.)

Special rules apply to active duty veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf Conflict. Special rules also apply to Filipinos who served in the military during World War II and for people who are, or have been, in the U.S. armed services for three years or more.

If you are a Filipino World War II veteran or active duty wartime veteran, you may be naturalized. You need not have ever been a permanent resident. You are also exempt from the English Language, Civic Knowledge, and Good Moral Character requirements.

Filipino war veterans must have served honorably in the U.S. military anytime during the period beginning September 1, 1939 to December 3, 1946. You must have been in active duty status under the command of the U.S. military in the Far East or within the army of the Philippines, the Philippine Scouts or a recognized guerrilla unit. Finally, you must have resided in the Philippines prior to your military service.

Persian Gulf veterans may be naturalized if they served honorably in active duty status between August 2, 1990 and April 11, 1991. The Persian Gulf veteran law applies to all aliens in active service during the August 2, 1990 to April 11, 1991 period, not just those who participated in the Gulf War conflict.

If you are a permanent resident who has served honorably for three years in the U.S. military, regardless of whether the service was continuous, you may be naturalized. In most cases, you are exempt from the Continuous Residence and Physical Presence Requirements. If you don't apply while in the service or within six months after your discharge, you must have resided in the United States during the periods of non-service, going back five years. You are not exempt from the Good Moral Character, English Language, or Civic Knowledge Requirements.



## ***SECTION II: GETTING NATURALIZED***

### **COMPLETING FORM N-400**

Most of INS Form N-400 is very straightforward but some questions require care in answering. Here are some suggestions for completing the application.

#### **USE A BLACK OR BLUE INK PEN**

- Print in CAPITAL LETTERS
- If you're A# is fewer than 9 digits, add zeroes at the beginning to fill all the spaces in the top right corner of every page.

### **Part 1. Your Name (The Person Applying for Naturalization)**

- A. Spell your name exactly as you would like it to appear on your naturalization certificate.
- B. Even if your name is misspelled on your green card, write it exactly that way here. This is important in identifying you. Your correct name from "A." will be used on your citizenship papers.
- C. Include your maiden name and any other names you may have used on official documents, if any.
- D. You can use citizenship process to legally change your name. When you go to your interview, the INS examiner should ask you whether you would like to be sworn in by a Federal Judge or Magistrate or by the INS. If you want to legally change your name you must be sworn in by a Federal Judge or Magistrate.

### **Part 2. Information About Your Eligibility (Check Only One)**

Check "a" if you, like most naturalization applicants, qualify because you have been a permanent resident for five or more years.

Check "b" if you have been married to, and living with, a U.S. citizen for three years while a permanent resident.

For "d" and "e," see Section I for information regarding naturalization based on military service and other factors.

### **Part 3. Information About You**

- B. Be sure to write your date of birth as MONTH/DAY/YEAR.
- C. Find this date on your green card.
- D. Your country of birth.
- E. The country where your passport is from.

- F. If one or both of your parents became citizens before you turned 18 you may already be a U.S. Citizen. Ask someone from the CUNY Resources list in the back of this booklet.
- G. Your marital status is important to the INS for several reasons. If you are applying under the three-year permanent resident rule for the spouse of a U.S. citizen, you must be CURRENTLY MARRIED TO AND LIVING WITH your U.S. Citizen spouse. If you got your permanent residence based on a spouse petition, and you divorced or separated from your spouse shortly after you got permanent residence, the INS may question whether yours was a real or bona fide marriage. The INS examiner may be interested in your marital status to make sure you were honest in applying for public benefits and/or completing tax returns.
- H. You must be able to speak, read, and write English, unless you qualify for an exemption. Exemptions are discussed in Section I.
- I. If you are unable to fully participate in the naturalization process because of a disability, the INS will make special accommodations. In some cases they will even send an officer to a household or rest home to interview an applicant. This section is where you let the INS know that you will need this special accommodation.

#### **Part 4. Addresses and Telephone Numbers**

The INS asks you to designate both your residence and your mailing address. The later is address where the INS will send your notice to appear for fingerprinting and for your naturalization interview. If you think you'll be moving in the next couple of years, use the mailing address of a friend or relative.

- A. Notice that there is one box for COUNTY, and a different box for COUNTRY. Do not confuse the two.

#### **Part 5. Information for Criminal Records Search**

See Section I "Good Moral Character Requirement"

If you have had any run-ins with the Police or other Governmental Authorities, speak to an immigration law expert before filing a naturalization application.

#### **Part 6. Information About Your Residence and Employment**

- A. Make sure you write your addresses STARTING WITH WHERE YOU LIVE NOW AND GOING BACKWARD.
- B. START WITH YOUR CURRENT JOB/SCHOOL AND MOVE BACKWARD.

If you weren't employed over the last five years, feel free to say so. You won't be kept from naturalizing just because you weren't employed. If you are receiving public benefits, that too is okay. You can still become a U.S. citizen.

If you have been employed, the INS will ask that you present your tax returns. Failure to report income may be grounds for denying you U.S. citizenship. Unless you earned so little income that you were not required to pay taxes, the INS will not naturalize you until you have complied with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations.

Suppose your employer petitioned for you for permanent residence and you left the employment shortly after becoming a permanent resident. The INS naturalization examiner may want to know why you left the job with your sponsor. The law doesn't require that you remain employed with a sponsor for any particular period of time. However, the examiner may want you to explain what happened if you left very soon after you got your green card.

## **Part 7. Time Outside the United States (Including Trips to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands)**

The section on absences from the U.S. is particularly important. Very few people have no absences. If your country of birth or your last residence is near the United States, the INS examiner may be skeptical if you claim that you never left the country. However, if that is the truth, of course you should indicate it.

If you have long absences, or if you have traveled a great deal, the INS will want to make sure that you have met the continuous residence and physical presence requirements (See Section I). If you were outside of the United States for more than one complete year (365 days continually) of the last five (or three) years, you have broken your continuous residence requirement. If you were out more than six months but less than a year, the INS examiner may want to know why you were abroad for so long.

You must have also been physically present in the United States for at least half of the time during the past five years (three years if you are applying under the three-year rule for the spouse of a U.S. citizen). The law allows exceptions for some religious workers, seamen and women, people serving in the military, and people working for the U.S. government abroad.

## **Part 8. Information About Your Marital History**

If you are applying under the three-year continuous residence requirement for the spouse of U.S. citizen, you must be currently married to and living with your U.S. Citizen spouse. If you got your permanent residence based on a spouse petition, and you divorced or separated from your spouse shortly after you got permanent residence, the INS may question whether yours was a real or bona fide marriage. The INS examiner may be interested in your marital status to make sure you were honest in applying for public benefits and/or completing tax returns.

## **Part 9. Information About Your Children**

Include all of the information about your children even if they are U.S. Citizens. This is not an application for them, The INS is simply requesting information about them. Failure to answer this question accurately may lead to problems later. Some of your children may get U.S. Citizenship automatically when you naturalize.



## Part 10. Additional Questions

Answer these questions carefully. In order for you to be naturalized, you must be a person of good moral character and you must be attached to (devoted to) the principles of the United States. Part 10 is designed to help the INS determine whether you meet these criteria. If you answer YES to any of the following questions, make sure that you consult an immigration law expert before you submit your naturalization application. Your YES answer may adversely effect your eligibility for citizenship. Note: The INS take the position that if you make a statement that is not true, even if it is meaningless, it is grounds for denying your application for having lied.

### A. General Questions

1. Have you **EVER** claimed to be a U.S. citizen (*in writing or any other way*)?
2. Have you **EVER** registered to vote in any Federal, state, or local election in the United States?
3. Have you **EVER** voted in any Federal, state, or local election in the United States?

These questions are designed to determine whether you ever made a false claim to U.S. Citizenship or improperly registered or voted in an election. Sometimes people honestly believing that they were believing they were U.S. Citizens have registered and voted in elections. Even if you answer yes to this question, you still may qualify for naturalization. Sometimes even people who made false claims to U.S. Citizenship did not do so in a manner that would make him ineligible for citizenship. An immigration law expert can better advise you.

In some cities, even undocumented immigrants can vote in school board and community elections. If local law allowed you to vote, your having voted won't bar you from naturalizing.

4. Since becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident, have you **EVER** failed to file a required Federal, state, or local tax return?

If you were required to file a federal tax return, but failed to do so, your naturalization application will be denied. Many people are not required to file tax returns because their income is less than the amount for which filing is required. Don't be afraid to answer NO to this question if you earned so little money in a particular year or years that you were not required to file a return.

Usually the INS will want to see your tax returns from the last five years, or they will want an explanation as to why you did not file returns.

5. Do you owe any Federal, state, or local taxes that are overdue?

Owing taxes is not an absolute bar to becoming a U.S. citizen. It is a factor that may be taken into consideration by the naturalization examiner.

6. Do you have any title of nobility in any foreign country?

A title of nobility is considered inconsistent with U.S. citizenship. If you hold a title of nobility, you must renounce the title prior to being naturalized.

7. Have you ever been declared legally incompetent or been confined to a mental institution within the last 5 years?

This question was designed to help the INS decide whether you are capable of understanding the oath of allegiance to the United States. In 2000, a law went into effect allowing the INS to waive the oath requirement for applicants mentally or physically disabled. Answering yes to this question will not bar you from naturalizing.

## **B. Affiliations**

8. a. Have you EVER been a member of or associated with any organization, fund, foundation, party, club, society, or similar group in the United States or in any other place?  
b. If you answered "Yes," list the name of each group below.

If the true answer to this question is "none", then write "none". Otherwise, list any organizations, including religious, social, and athletic clubs. The examiner is trying to learn whether you are ineligible for naturalization because of certain political activities, such as membership in communist or pro-Communist organizations. The INS examiner will expect a complete answer.

9. Have you EVER been a member of or in any way associated (directly or indirectly) with:
  - a. The Communist Party?
  - b. Any other Totalitarian Party?
  - c. A terrorist organization?

If you were associated with a communist organization, you may not file for naturalization for at least ten years after you left your organization. The INS may make an exception if you became a member of the party involuntarily, such as to get a better job, or because of some other economic or physical pressure. The INS may naturalize a person who was a member of a communist organization if the person ended their party membership before the age of 16. Terrorists are barred from naturalizing.

10. Have you EVER advocated (either directly or indirectly) the overthrow of any government by force or violence?

If you are ineligible under the provision for those who advocated the overthrow of a government may still be naturalized under the rules that apply to members of "communist" or "totalitarian" organizations described under Question 9 above.

11. Have you EVER persecuted (either directly or indirectly) any person because of race, religion, national origin, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion?

A person who answers YES to either of the above questions may not be naturalized.

12. Between March 23, 1933, to May 8, 1945, did you work for or associate in any way (*either directly or indirectly*) with:
  - a. The Nazi government of Germany?

- b. Any government in any area (1) occupied by, (2) allied with, or (3) established with the assistance or cooperation of the Nazi government of Germany?
- c. Any German, Nazi, or S.S. military unit, paramilitary unit, self-defense unit, vigilante unit, citizen unit, police unit, government agency or office, extermination camp, concentration camp, prisoner of war camp, prison, labor camp, or transit camp?

Former Nazis may not become naturalized U.S. citizens no matter how much time has elapsed since party membership.

### **C. Continuous Residence**

Since becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States:

- 13. Have you EVER called yourself a "nonresident" on a Federal, state, or local tax return?
- 14. Have you EVER failed to file a Federal, state, or local tax return because you considered yourself to be a "nonresident"?

If you claimed an exemption from having to pay federal taxes because you did not consider yourself to be a resident of the United States, you may be ineligible for naturalization. The same is true if you did file tax returns as a nonresident. In either case, the INS may consider you to have abandoned your residence or interrupted the statutory period of five (or three) continuous residence.

### **D. Good Moral Character**

- 15. Have you EVER committed a crime or offense for which you were NOT arrested?
- 16. Have you EVER been arrested, cited, or detained by any law enforcement officer (including INS and military officers) for any reason?
- 17. Have you EVER been charged with committing any crime or offense?
- 18. Have you EVER been convicted of a crime or offense?
- 19. Have you EVER been placed in an alternative sentencing or a rehabilitative program (for example: diversion, deferred prosecution, withheld adjudication, deferred adjudication)?
- 20. Have you EVER received a suspended sentence, been placed on probation, or been paroled?
- 21. Have you EVER been in jail or prison?

If you have committed certain criminal acts, even if you were never convicted of a crime, you may be ineligible to be naturalized. If the act occurred more than five years before your interview (three years if you were married to and living with a U.S. citizen), you may still be naturalized. For a discussion of the naturalization implications of criminal activity, and further instructions, SEE SECTION 1.

The INS takes the position that if you are arrested and never charged with a crime or even if your record was entirely expunged you must answer yes to the relevant questions on this form. This is a very complicated area of immigration law. If you have any questions, or answered "yes" to any of the above questions, see an immigration law expert.

- 22. Have you EVER
  - a. been a habitual drunkard?

A chronic alcoholic is a habitual drunkard. The INS examiner may question you about your drinking if you have several arrests for driving while intoxicated (or driving under the influence) or you have been charged with disorderly conduct for incidents arising from alcohol abuse.

- b. been a prostitute, or procured anyone for prostitution?

A professional prostitute is not eligible for naturalization. Having been convicted of single act of prostitution will not make the person necessarily ineligible for citizenship. The same is true for a single conviction for soliciting a prostitute.

- c. sold or smuggled controlled substances, illegal drugs or narcotics?

Most drug offenses make a person ineligible for naturalization the only exception is for a person who has been convicted of a single offense of simple possession of 30 grams or less of marijuana.

- d. been married to more than one person at the same time?

This question seeks to identify individuals who practice or advocate polygamy. The INS takes the position that even a person who has practiced polygamy in the past is barred from establishing good moral character. Still if you have practiced polygamy in the past outside the United States and did not come to the United States to practice or advocate polygamy you might qualify for naturalization. An immigration law expert can help you argue your case.

- e. helped anyone enter or try to enter the country illegally?

You may be barred from if you smuggled someone into the United States. Even without a conviction you may be barred. The smuggling provisions of the immigration law that would make you ineligible for citizenship are relatively new. It is unclear whether if you smuggled a relative into the United States you would be barred from naturalizing.

- f. gambled illegally or received income from illegal gambling?

This clearly DOES NOT apply to a person who is involved in legal gambling activities such as an employee in a Los Vegas casino. Nor will you be barred from naturalizing simply because you were convicted of a single act of illegal gambling.

- g. failed to support your dependents or to pay alimony?

Failure to support your dependents or to pay alimony shows a lack of good moral character. If you have children who are not living with your or a spouse who is not living with you be prepared to answer questions as to whether you are required to support them or whether you are doing so. Particularly if you have children that are not living with you be prepared to establish to satisfaction of the naturalization examiner that you are contributing to the support of your children. If you are NOT required to support your children you will need to prove that to the examiner.

If any of the categories described in question 22 apply to you, it may mean that you cannot prove good moral character. The INS may deny your naturalization application. *If the act occurred prior to the five years (three if you are married to and living with a U.S. citizen) you've lived in the United States as a permanent resident, you may still be able to show good moral character.*

23. Have you EVER given false or misleading information to any U.S. government official while applying for any immigration benefit or to prevent deportation, exclusion, or removal?

If you have given false testimony trying to get an immigration benefit you are barred from establishing good moral character. This bar is not permanent but applies only to the statutory period of five (or three) years for which you must prove good moral character.

24. Have you EVER lied to any U.S. government official to gain entry or admission into the United States?

This question simply brings out information that would make you ineligible under the same rules that apply in question 23 above.

### **E. Removal, Exclusion, and Deportation Proceedings**

25. Are removal, exclusion, recission or deportation proceedings pending against you?
26. Have you EVER been removed, excluded, or deported from the United States?
27. Have you EVER been ordered to be removed, excluded, or deported from the United States?
28. Have you EVER applied for any kind of relief from removal, exclusion, or deportation?

If you are presently in removal proceedings the INS will put off a decision on your naturalization application until an Immigration Judge decides your case. If you were ever ordered removed, excluded or deported from the United States and manage to resolve that problem prior to you becoming a permanent resident or after you becoming a permanent resident you may still be eligible to become a U.S. Citizen.

### **F. Military Service**

29. Have you EVER served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

If you have served in the Armed Forces, the INS will check your Armed Services records as part of their investigation into your background and character. You will need to submit INS form G-325B with your naturalization application.

30. Have you EVER left the United States to avoid being drafted into the U.S. Armed Forces?

Vietnam War era “draft dodgers” may naturalize because of a pardon granted by U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The pardon benefits men who left the country to avoid being drafted into the U.S. armed forces between August 4, 1964, and March 28, 1973.

31. Have you EVER applied for any kind of exemption from military service in the U.S. Armed Forces?

If you were drafted, but claimed an exemption from military service because you are not a U.S. citizen, you may be permanently barred from becoming a U.S. citizen. This is a complicated area.

If you have questions, ask an immigration law expert. Having made a claim for conscientious objector status will not bar you from becoming a U.S. citizen.

32. Have you EVER deserted from the U.S. Armed Forces?

Wartime deserters from the military may be ineligible for U.S. citizenship. Military deserters from the Vietnam era, between August 4, 1964, and March 28, 1973, may benefit from a pardon granted by President Jimmy Carter.

### G. Selective Service Registration

33. Are you a male who lived in the United States at any time between your 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> birthdays?

If you answered NO, go on to question 34.

If you answered YES, provide the information below.

If you answered YES, but you did NOT register with the Selective Service System and are still under 26 years of age, you must register before you apply for naturalization, so that you can complete the information below:

Date Registered (Month/Day Year) \_\_\_\_\_ Selective Service Number \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

If your answered YES, but you did NOT register with the Selective Service and you are now 26 years old or older, attach a statement explaining why you did not register.

If you did register with Selective Service, but you don't know your registration number, you can get your number by calling or writing to the Selective Service Administration. **You can call their machine operated toll-free number at 1-888-655-1825, or check their website at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov), and have your date-of-birth and Social Security number ready.** To reach a Selective Service representative call 1-847-688-6888, or write to the Selective Service at P.O. Box 94636, Palatine, IL 60094-4636, include your name, date of birth, and social security number.

It is the INS view that failing to register reflects on your moral character and your adherence to the U.S. Constitution. The United States is not presently drafting men or women into the armed forces. Still, U.S. Selective Service laws require that all men, U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and undocumented immigrants register with the Selective Service.

The registration requirement applies to men only if they were in the United States between the ages of 18 to 25 and who were born after January 1, 1960. The requirement ends once you reach the age of 26. The registration requirement does not apply to men here on lawful non-immigrant status, such as with F-1 student or H-1B temporary worker visas.

If you are not yet 26 years old, you can register late with the Selective Service. You can get a registration form at your local post office, or register online at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov). You can bring proof of your late registration with you to your naturalization interview and the INS examiner may excuse your failure to register.

Some men were unaware of their obligation to register and didn't get a notice to register from either the Selective Service or the INS. If this describes your situation, try submitting an affidavit (a

sworn statement) to the INS examiner explaining that you didn't willfully and knowingly fail to register. The examiner may approve your application.

If you are found to have knowingly and willfully failed to register, you must wait until you are at least 31, five years after your obligation to register ended, before you can become a U.S. citizen. If you're married to and living with a U.S. citizen, you can be naturalized when you reach the age of 29, three years after your obligation to register ended.

**H. Oath Requirements** *(See Part 14 of the N400 application form for the text of the Oath)*

Answer question 34 through 39. If you answer "No" to any of these questions, attach (1) your written explanation why the answer was "No", and (2) any additional information or documentation that helps to explain your answer.

34. Do you support the Constitution and form of government of the United States?

To be naturalized, you must believe in the U.S. form of government and our Constitution. If you advocate totalitarianism or the overthrow of our government, you might be ineligible for naturalization. The law allows no exemption from the requirement that you believe in the U.S. form of government.

35. Do you understand the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States?

This is a new question not asked on previous forms. I assume that the question goes to two issues: whether you have the mental capacity to take the oath, and to make sure that at a later time should you complain that you didn't fully understand the oath, your statement on the form can be used against you.

36. Are you willing to take the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States?

37. If the law requires it, are you willing to bear arms on behalf of the United States?

38. If the law requires it, are you willing to perform noncombatant services in the U.S. Armed Forces?

39. If the law requires it, are you willing to perform work of national importance under civilian direction?

To be naturalized, you must be willing to take an oath of allegiance to the United States. You may omit that part of the oath relating to bearing arms or performing attendance in military service. If you want to omit part of the oath, answer NO to question 2.

The Oath of Allegiance is printed on the instruction sheet to INS Form N-400. You must agree to be willing to bear arms, perform some form of military service, or do civilian work of national importance. If you meet conscientious objector standards, you can take an abbreviated form of the Oath saying that you are willing only to perform civilian service. You must however, be willing to perform some form of government service.

**Part 11. Your Signature**

If you are physically able to write, you must sign here. If you are physically unable to write, the person who helped you complete the form signs Part 12 below.

## **Part 12. Signature of Person Who Prepared This Application for You (if applicable)**

The law does not require any individual who helps another complete the N-400 form to sign part 12. If you are physically unable to write, the person who helped you complete the form signs here.

## **DO NOT COMPLETE PARTS 13 AND 14 UNTIL YOUR INTERVIEW**



## **NATURALIZATION PROCEDURES AND TIPS**

### **Filing the N-400**

You must file your application in the INS service center office for the geographical area where you reside. You must have resided in your state for 90 days. Mail your application certified mail/return receipt requested. You should keep a copy of your proof of filing in a safe place in case the original is lost or destroyed. You may file your application three months before you meet the continuous residence requirement.

File INS Form N-400, Naturalization Application, with an application fee of \$260 plus \$50 for INS fingerprinting, for a total of \$310. Though it's not required, I recommend that you send two separate checks or money orders. Use personal checks or money orders to pay the filing fee; that way you'll have proof that the INS cashed your check.

### **Fee Waiver Applications**

The INS will waive the \$260 naturalization application filing fee for those who can prove they can't afford to pay it. Unlike most applicants for permanent residence, you can naturalize even if you are receiving public assistance. The INS WILL NOT waive the \$50 fingerprinting fee.

If you want a fee waiver, you'll need to prove your inability to pay the fee. Here are some factors that the INS will consider:

- Whether you qualified for or received a federal means-tested public benefit. Federal means-tested public benefits include Food Stamps, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, and Temporary Assistance of Needy Families within the last 180 days.



- Whether the income you reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the most recent tax year is at or below the poverty level.
- Whether you are elderly (age 65 and over), at the time you submit the fee request.
- Whether you are disabled. The disability should have been previously determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA), Health and Human Services (HHS), Veteran's Administration (VA), Department of Defense (DOD) or other federal agency.
- Humanitarian or compassionate reasons, either temporary or permanent, which justify the granting of a fee waiver request. The INS gives the examples of applicants who are temporarily destitute; applicants who do not own, possess, or control assets sufficient to pay the fee without causing substantial hardship; or applicants on a fixed income and confined to a nursing home.
- The INS will consider any other additional factors you consider important.
- Any other evidence or factors that the INS examiner believes establishes an applicant or petitioner's inability to pay the required filing fees.

If you are applying for a fee waiver, include a cover sheet with your application with the words **FEE WAIVER REQUEST INCLUDED** in red letters.

### **Photographs**

You must also submit two photographs. The photos must be 3/4 profile showing the right side of your face with your right ear showing. No jewelry or hats. Most professional photographers will be familiar with the guidelines.

### **Fingerprinting**

You will be notified by INS when and where to go have your fingerprints taken. They will advise you of a designated INS agency to do your fingerprinting. Only an INS designated agency can do fingerprinting for naturalization purposes.

### **Name Changes**

You can change your name as part of the naturalization process. To change your name, you must be sworn in as a U.S. citizen by a federal court. If your naturalization interview goes well, you may choose to be sworn in by the INS or by a federal court. In some parts of the country, you can get an INS swearing-in faster than the court procedure. The only other difference is that only the court can change your name. If you wish to begin using a name different from the name on your alien card, you must request a COURT swearing in. If your name has been changed through marriage or divorce, the INS will issue you a U.S. citizenship certificate in your new name. In that case you may be sworn-in by either a court or the INS.

### **The INS Interview**

Sometime after you file your application, you will receive a notice to appear for an interview. At the interview, the INS requires that you show that you can read, write, and speak English; the INS examiner reviews your application; and you are questioned orally as to your knowledge of the

government and politics of the United States. As discussed earlier, some older, long-time resident applicants are not required to read, write, and speak English in order to become a U.S. citizen.

At the start of your interview, the INS examiner will ask you to swear that all the information you are about to give is true. After you have taken this oath, the INS examiner will go over your application to make sure that your statements there are accurate. The examiner will ask that you present tax returns or that you explain why you didn't need to file the returns.

### **After the Interview**

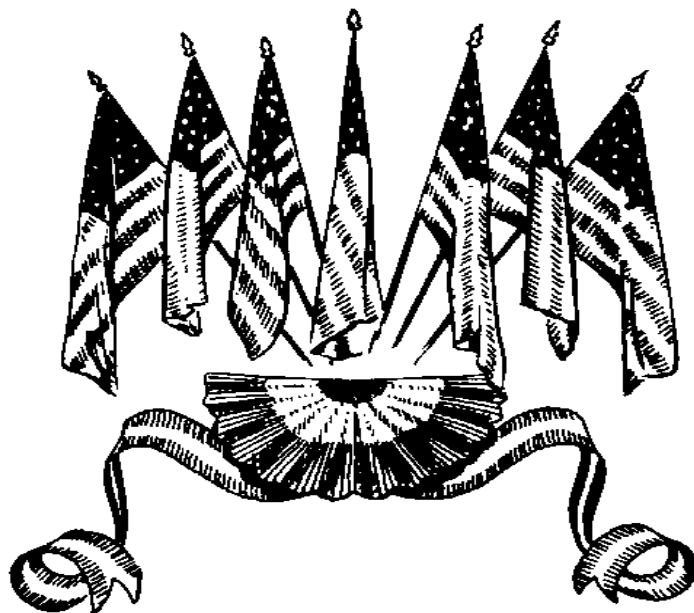
If the INS approves your naturalization application, the examiner should give you the choice of being sworn in at an INS ceremony or taking an oath given by the federal court. The INS ceremony is sometimes faster, but if you want to legally change your name as part of the naturalization process, you must request a court ceremony. At the time of the swearing-in ceremony, you will take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States and become a naturalized citizen.

If the INS denies your application because you could not prove the ability to read, write, or speak English, you will get two more chances to try to pass the test without having to pay another fee. There is no limit to how often you can apply for citizenship.

The INS examiner usually decides a case at the interview, but not always. The INS must decide within 120 days, or you will have the right to file an application with the federal district court to get your case resolved.

### **Appealing an INS Denial of Your Naturalization**

If the INS denies your application, the INS examiner must inform you that you have 30 days to request a hearing before an immigration officer. If you are unsuccessful at that hearing, you may seek a review of the decision in federal court. The court will make an independent decision and can overturn the INS decision.



## ***100 CIVIC KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS:***

### **100 Typical Questions Asked By INS Naturalization Examiners:**

1. What are the colors of our flag?
2. How many stars are there in our flag?
3. What color are the stars on our flag?
4. What do the stars on the flag mean?
5. How many stripes are there in the flag?
6. What color are the stripes?
7. What do the stripes on the flag mean?
8. How many states are there in the union?
9. What is the 4th of July?
10. What is the date of Independence Day?
11. Independence from whom?
12. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?
13. Who was the first President of the United States?
14. Who is the President of the United States today?
15. Who is the Vice-President of the United States today?
16. Who elects the President of the United States?
17. Who becomes President of the United States if the President should die?
18. For how long do we elect the President?
19. What is the Constitution?
20. Can the Constitution be changed?
21. What do we call a change to the Constitution?
22. How many changes or amendments are there to the Constitution?
23. How many branches are there in our government?
24. What are the three branches of our government?

25. What is the legislative branch of our government?
26. Who makes the laws in the United States?
27. What is Congress?
28. What are the duties of Congress?
29. Who elects Congress?
30. How many Senators are there in Congress?
31. Can you name the two Senators from your state?
32. For how long do we elect each Senator?
33. How many representatives are there in Congress?
34. For how long do we elect the Representatives?
35. What is the executive branch of our government?
36. What is the judiciary branch of our government?
37. What are the duties of the Supreme Court?
38. What is the supreme law of the United States?
39. What is the Bill of Rights?
40. What is the capital of your state?
41. Who is the current governor of your state?
42. Who becomes President of the U.S. if the President and the Vice-President should die?
43. Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
44. Can you name the 13 original states?
45. Who said "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death?"
46. Which countries were our enemies during World War II?
47. What are the 49th and 50th states of the union?
48. How many terms can a President serve?
49. Who was Martin Luther King Jr.?
50. Who is the head of our local government?

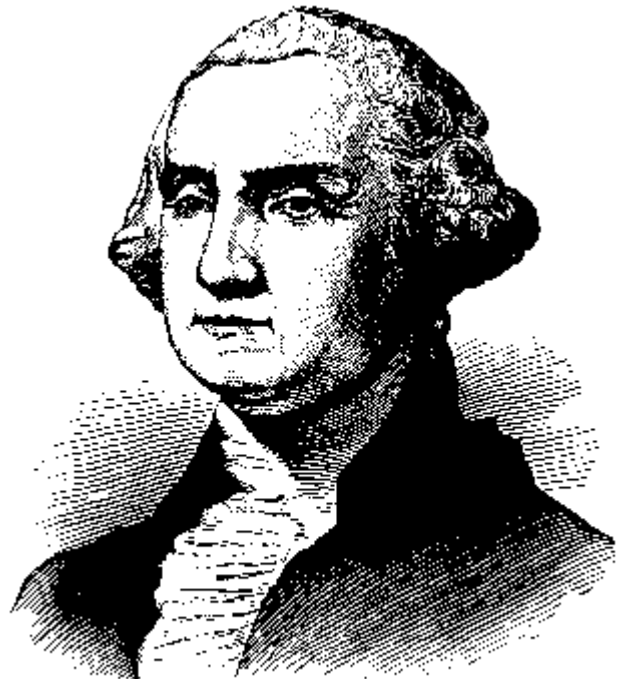
51. According to the Constitution, a person must meet certain requirements in order to be eligible to become President. Name one of the requirements.
52. What are the 100 Senators in the Senate?
53. Who selects the Supreme Court Justices?
54. How many Supreme Court Justices are there?
55. Why did the pilgrims come to America?
56. What is the head executive of state government called?
57. What is the head executive of city government called?
58. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by the American colonists?
59. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?
60. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
61. What is the basic belief of the Declaration of Independence?
62. What is the national anthem of the United States?
63. Who wrote the “Star-Spangled Banner”?
64. Where does freedom of speech come from?
65. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?
66. Who signs bills into law?
67. What is the highest court in the United States?
68. Who was the President during the Civil War?
69. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
70. What special group advises the President?
71. Which President is called the “Father of Our Country”?
72. What Immigration and Naturalization Service form is used to apply to become a naturalized citizen?
73. Who helped the pilgrims in America?
74. What is the name of the ship that brought the pilgrims to America?
75. What were the 13 original states of the United States called?
76. Name three rights of freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

77. Who has the power to declare war?
78. Name one amendment that guarantees or addresses voting rights?
79. Which President freed the slaves?
80. In what year was the Constitution written?
81. What are the first ten amendments to the Constitution called?
82. Name one purpose of the United Nations.
83. Where does Congress meet?
84. Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?
85. What is the introduction to the Constitution called?
86. Name one benefit of being a citizen of the United States.
87. What is the most important right granted to U.S. citizens?
88. What is the United States capital?
89. What is the White House?
90. Where is the White House located?
91. What is the name of the President's official home?
92. Name one right guaranteed by the first amendment.
93. Who is the Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?
94. Which President was the first Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?
95. In what month do we vote for the President?
96. What month is the new President inaugurated?
97. How many times may a Senator be re-elected?
98. How many times may a Congressman be re-elected?
99. What are the two major political parties in the United States today?
100. How many states are there in the United States?

## ANSWERS TO 100 TYPICAL INS NATURALIZATION QUESTIONS

- |     |  |     |   |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| 1.  | Red, white and blue  | 44. | Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Rhode Island and Maryland         |
| 2.  | 50   | 45. | Patrick Henry   |
| 3.  | White  | 46. | Germany, Italy and Japan  |
| 4.  | One for each state in the union                                  | 47. | Hawaii and Alaska   |
| 5.  | 13   | 48. | 2   |
| 6.  | Red and white  | 49. | A civil rights leader   |
| 7.  | They represent the original 13 states.                           | 50. | Mike Bloomberg  |
| 8.  | 50   | 51. | Must be a natural-born citizen of the United States; must be at least 35 years old by the time he/she will serve; must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years. |
| 9.  | Independence Day   | 52. | Two (2) from each state   |
| 10. | July 4th   | 53. | Appointed by the President  |
| 11. | England  | 54. | Nine (9)  |
| 12. | England  | 55. | For religious freedom   |
| 13. | George Washington  | 56. | Governor  |
| 14. | George Bush  | 57. | Mayor   |
| 15. | Dick Cheney  | 58. | Thanksgiving  |
| 16. | The electoral college  | 59. | Thomas Jefferson  |
| 17. | Vice-President   | 60. | July 4, 1776  |
| 18. | 4 years  | 61. | That all men are created equal  |
| 19. | The supreme law of the land                                      | 62. | The Star-Spangled Banner  |
| 20. | Yes  | 63. | Francis Scott Key   |
| 21. | Amendments   | 64. | The Bill of Rights  |
| 22. | 27   | 65. | 18  |
| 23. | 3  | 66. | The President   |
| 24. | Legislative, executive and judiciary                             | 67. | The Supreme Court   |
| 25. | Congress   | 68. | Abraham Lincoln   |
| 26. | Congress   | 69. | Freed many slaves   |
| 27. | The Senate and the House of Representatives                      | 70. | The Cabinet   |
| 28. | To make laws   | 71. | George Washington   |
| 29. | The people   | 72. | Form N-400, Application to File Petition for Naturalization   |
| 30. | 100  | 73. | The American Indians (Native Americans)   |
| 31. | Charles Schumer and Hilary Clinton                               | 74. | The Mayflower   |
| 32. | 6 years  | 75. | Colonies  |
| 33. | 435  |     |   |
| 34. | 2 years  |     |   |
| 35. | The President, Cabinet and departments under the Cabinet members |     |   |
| 36. | The Supreme Court  |     |   |
| 37. | To interpret laws  |     |   |
| 38. | The Constitution   |     |   |
| 39. | The first 10 amendments to the Constitution                      |     |   |
| 40. | Albany (New York)  |     |   |
| 41. | George Pataki  |     |   |
| 42. | Speaker of the House   |     |   |
| 43. | William Rehnquist  |     |   |

76. Rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights:
- a) The right to freedom of speech, press, religion, peaceable assembly and requesting change of government.
  - b) The right to bear arms (the right to have weapons or own a gun, though subject to certain regulations).
  - c) The government may not quarter, or house, soldiers in the people's home during peacetime without the people's consent.
  - d) The government may not search or take a person's property without a warrant.
  - e) A person may not be tried twice for the same crime and does not have to testify against him/herself.
  - f) A person charged with a crime still has some rights, such as the right to a trial and to have a lawyer.
  - g) The right to trial by jury in most cases.
  - h) Protects people against excessive or unreasonable fines or cruel and unusual punishment.
  - i) The people have rights other than those mentioned in the constitution.
  - j) Any power not given to the federal government by the constitution is a power of either the state or the people
77. The Congress  
78. 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, or 26<sup>th</sup>  
79. Abraham Lincoln  
80. 1787  
81. The Bill of Rights  
82. For countries to discuss and try to resolve world problems; to provide economic aid to many countries.  
83. In the Capitol, in Washington D.C.
84. Everyone (citizens and non-citizens living in the U.S.)  
85. The Preamble  
86. Obtain federal government jobs; travel with a U.S. passport; petition for close relatives to come to the U.S. to live.  
87. The right to vote  
88. The place where Congress meets.  
89. The President's official home.  
90. 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
91. The White House  
92. Freedom of speech, press, religion, peaceable assembly, and requesting change of the government.  
93. The President  
94. George Washington  
95. November  
96. January  
97. There is no limit.  
98. There is no limit.  
99. Democratic and Republican  
100. 50





## ***DUAL CITIZENSHIP***

This list is based on the best current information. Some countries don't acknowledge foreign citizenship at all. Others have various restrictions regarding losing or acquiring dual citizenship and for that reason are not listed below. If you are concerned about losing your present citizenship when you naturalize as a U.S. citizen, speak to a representative of your government before filing for naturalization.

### **DUAL CITIZENSHIP GENERALLY ALLOWED AFTER U.S. NATURALIZATION**

Albania	Cyprus	Jamaica	Romania
Antigua	Dominica	Latvia	St. Christopher
Barbados	Dominican	Lesotho	St. Kitts
Belize	Republic	Liechtenstein	St. Lucia
Benin	Ecuador	Macao	Slovenia
Bulgaria	El Salvador	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Burkina FASO	France	Mexico	Switzerland
Cambodia	Ghana	Morocco	Syria
Canada	Greece	Namibia	Togo
Cape Verde	Grenada	Nevis	Tunisia
Central African	Guatemala	New Zealand	Turkey
Republic	Hong Kong	Nigeria	Tuvalu
Colombia	Hungary	Panama	United Kingdom
Costa Rica	Iran	Peru	
Cote D'Ivoire	Ireland	Poland	
Croatia	Israel	Portugal	

### **DUAL CITIZENSHIP GENERALLY NOT ALLOWED AFTER U.S. NATURALIZATION**

Algeria	Equatorial Guinea	Mongolia	Sierra Leone
Andorra	Gabon	Monaco	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Guinea	Myanmar (Burma)	South Korea
Bahrain	Honduras	Nepal	Sudan
Belarus	India	New Guinea	Swaziland
Belgium	Indonesia	Nicaragua	Sweden
Bhutan	Iraq	Niger	Taiwan
Bolivia	Japan	North Korea	Tonga
Botswana	Kazakhstan	Norway	Uganda
Brunei	Kiribati	Oman	Ukraine
Burundi	Kuwait	Pakistan	United Arab Emirates
Cameroon	Kyrgyz Republic	Palau	Uzbekistan
Congo	Laos	Papua New Guinea	Venezuela
Chile	Libya	Principe Island	Vietnam
China	Malawi	Qatar	Yemen
Cuba	Malaysia	Rwanda	Zimbabwe
Djibouti	Mali	Saudi Arabia	

# ***APPLICATION CHECKLIST***

Check this list before mailing your application!

- \_\_\_\_\_ All appropriate boxes of application are filled
- \_\_\_\_\_ Application is signed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Include copy of front and back of permanent residence card
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signed document certification ("Important Document" sheet)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Name and alien number on back of both photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Article number from *Certified Mail Receipt* AND your address written on *Return Receipt Card*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Put return receipt card and certified mail receipt on outside of envelope
- \_\_\_\_\_ Include: \$260.00 (for application fee) and \$50.00 (for fingerprint fee) in money order or personal check payable to the order of "Immigration and Naturalization Service" or INS.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Include continuation sheets if necessary



## WHERE TO GET MORE HELP

**New York Immigration Hotline: (212) 419-3737 or (800) 566-7636**  
**INS National Customer Service (800) 375-5283**

### **Association of the Bar of the City of New York**

42 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
*New York, NY 10036*  
(212) 382-6629

- Language(s): Spanish
- Limited to: asylum and battered women seeking status.

### **Brooklyn Legal Services Corp.**

256-260 Broadway  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
(718) 487-2300

- Language(s): Spanish
- Asylum: No
- Limited to: Serve area of 11211-11206-11222-11237 zip codes
- Only battered women seeking status.

### **Caribbean Women's' Health Assoc. Immigrant Service Center**

123 Linden Blvd  
Brooklyn, NY 11226  
(718) 826-2942

- Language(s): French, Spanish, Creole.
- Asylum: Yes
- May charge nominal fee

### **Catholic Charities, Office for Immigrant Services**

1011 First Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
*New York, NY 10022*

**Phone: (212) 371-1000 or 1011 ext. 2260**  
**Fax: (212) 826-6254**

- Language(s): Spanish, Creole, Korean, French, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Polish, German, Portuguese, Thai, Amharic, Albanian, Khmer
- Asylum: Yes
- May charge nominal fee

### **Catholic Legal Immigration Network**

1011 First Avenue, Room 1285  
New York, NY 10022  
Phone: (212) 826-6251  
Languages: English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish

### **Catholic Migration Office**

(Citizenship test preparation)

1258 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219  
Phone: (718) 236-3000  
Fax: (718) 256-9707

Languages: English, Cantonese, Haitian-Creole, French, Italian, Polish, Russian, and Spanish.

### **Central American Legal Assistance**

240 Hooper Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
(718) 486-6800

- Language(s): Spanish
- Asylum: Yes

### **Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)**

2070 Grand Concourse Blvd., Suite 1  
Bronx, NY 10457  
Phone: (718) 731-3114  
Fax: (718) 901-1586

Contact: Victoria Gambino

Languages: English and Spanish, other.

### **Comite Nuestra Señora de Loreto Sobre Asuntos de Inmigracion**

856 Pacific Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11238  
(718) 783-4500

- Language(s): Spanish, French, Italian
- Asylum: Yes

### **Gay Men's Health Crisis, Inc.**

119 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 367-1040

- Language(s): Spanish, French, Creole
- Asylum: Yes
- Limited to: Represent HIV+ individuals only

### **Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society**

333 Seventh Ave  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 613-1419  
(212) 613-1420 (Wackenhut Detainees only)

- Language(s): Russian, Spanish, Polish, French
- Asylum: Yes
- May charge nominal fee

### **The Legal Aid Society Immigration Law Unit**

90 Church Street  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 577-3300

- Language(s): Russian, French, Spanish, Italian, Haitian, Creole

### **Nassau County Hispanic Foundation, Inc., Immigration Law Service**

233 Seventh Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Garden City, NY 11530  
(516) 742-0067

- Language(s): Spanish
- Asylum: Yes
- May charge nominal fee

### **New York Assoc. for New Americans**

17 Battery Place, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor North  
New York, NY 10004  
(212) 425-5051

- Language(s): Spanish, French, Haitian, Creole, Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian Vietnamese
- Asylum: Yes
- Limited to: Non Detained Cases

### **Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights**

2 Bennett Avenue  
New York, NY 10033  
(212) 781-0355

- Language(s): Spanish
- Asylum: Yes
- Limited to: Non Detained Cases

### **Safe Horizon Immigration Legal Services**

74-09 37<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, Room 308  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372  
(718) 899-1233 ext.129 (lawyers)  
(718) 899-4000 NY Immigration Hotline

- Language(s): Spanish, French, Chinese, Haitian, Creole, Korean, Polish
- Asylum: Yes
- Limited to: Priority for survivors of domestic abuse, persecution, torture
- Can represent those with non-violent criminal offenses.
- May charge nominal fee

### **YMCA Elesair Project**

(ESL Classes)  
122 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10011  
Phone: (212) 741-4240  
Fax: (212) 741-4251  
Hours: Mon-Thur, 11:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.  
Population served: All  
Languages: Chinese, English, Farsi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalong and Vietnamese.



# ***CUNY Resources***

## ***For Additional Information***

### **CUNY Citizenship and Immigration Project**

Allan Wernick, Project Chair  
Ruth Kamona, Director  
101 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, 12<sup>TH</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001-3503  
Tel: (646) 344-7250  
Fax: (646) 344-7249

### **City College**

#### **The Immigrants' Center at City College**

Gnoleba Seri, Associate Director  
North Academic Center, Room 1-206  
138<sup>th</sup> Street and Convent Ave.  
New York, NY 10031  
Tel: (212) 650-6620 or 7967 or 7968 Fax: (212) 650-6643

### **New York City Technical College**

#### **Immigration Clinic**

Concetta Mennella, Director  
Cynthia Mckie-Powder  
Legal Studies Department  
300 Jay Street, Room N622  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
By appointment only  
Tel: (718) 260-5597  
Fax: (718) 260-5387

### **Queensborough Community College**

#### **Center for Immigration**

Tunde Kashimawo, Director  
Library Building, Room 431  
222-05 56<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bayside, NY 11364  
Tel: (718) 631-6611  
Fax: (718) 281-5140

## **CUNY Coordinating Committee on Citizenship and Naturalization**

### **Baruch College**

Mr. Stephen Goldberg  
International Student Center  
151 E. 25<sup>th</sup> St. Room H880  
New York, NY 10010  
Tel: 1-646-312-2053  
Fax: 1-646-312-2051

### **Borough of Manhattan CC**

Ms. Lily Yi-Elkin,  
International Student Services  
199 Chambers Street  
Room 300 South  
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### **Bronx Community College**

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### **Brooklyn College**

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### **City College**

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### **College of Staten Island**

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**John Jay College**

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**Lehman College**

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**Medgar Evers College**

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**York College**

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