

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CITIZEN?

- Incredibly emotional experience, especially for those individuals who fled oppressive governments.
- People remember this experience.
- What has your union done for you lately? - My union helped me become a U.S. citizen. And now I vote!

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS AND CITIZENSHIP

- **Different types of immigration status**
 - Legal Permanent Resident
 - Asylee/refugee
 - Temporary Workers
 - TPS/DACA
 - Undocumented
 - Nonimmigrant/Immigrant Visas

WAYS TO BECOME A CITIZEN:

- Automatic at Birth (in/out of the U.S.)
 - Just lucky I guess
- Automatic acquisition of citizenship - after birth
 - Just lucky I guess
- Naturalization
 - Choice, must “earn” it

NATURALIZATION

Pathway to U.S. Citizenship

For an adult immigrant to become a U.S. citizen, he or she must go through the process of naturalization. **GENERAL** requirements for naturalization call for the immigrant to:



★ Form N-400: uscis.gov/n-400

★ Learn more about specific eligibility requirements for naturalization: uscis.gov/citizenship

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

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- **Residence:** 5 years as a permanent resident, during which time the applicant has spent more time in the U.S. than out & has lived within the USCIS filing district for at least 3 month prior to filing.
- **Absences:** Any absence from the United States of 6 months or longer during the 5 year period breaks the residence requirement and could be considered abandonment of status.
- **Good Moral Character** - INA 101 GMC & 8 CFR 316.10
 - What on earth does it mean to have good moral character? Judge not lest ye be judged yourselves.
 - A case-by-case analysis taking into account the statutory requirements of GMC and the standards of the average citizen in the community of residence.

GOOD MORAL CHARACTER CONTINUED....

- a. For the purposes of this chapter- No person shall be regarded as, or found to be, a person of good moral character who, during the period for which good moral character is required to be established is, or was-
- b. (1) a **habitual drunkard**;
- c. (2) Repealed.
- d. (3) a member of one or more of the classes of persons, whether inadmissible or not, **crimes involving moral turpitude, prostitution, drug offenses**
- e. (4) one whose income is derived principally from **illegal gambling** activities;
- f. (5) one who has been convicted of two or more gambling offenses committed during such period;
- g. (6) one who has given **false testimony** to U.S. government
- h. (7) Confinement in **jail or prison of 180 days or more**, as a result of a conviction.
- i. (8) one who at any time has been convicted of an **aggravated felony** (as defined in subsection (a)(43)); or
- j. (9) one who at any time has engaged in **Nazi persecution, participation in genocide, or commission of acts of torture** or extrajudicial killings) or 1182(a)(2)(G) of this title (relating to severe violations of religious freedom).

Other GMC Issues:

- a. Child Support
- b. Criminal History
- c. Traffic violations
- d. Deportable offenses
- e. False statement to USCIS officer

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- English language:
 - Read
 - https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/guides/reading_vocab.pdf
 - Write
 - https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/guides/writing_vocab.pdf
 - Speak
- English Language Exceptions: Rule of 70
- U.S. History, Principles & Form of Government:
 - <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/questions-and-answers/100q.pdf>

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“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.”

THINK THIS IS INTRUSIVE?



TRY APPLYING FOR NATURALIZATION

WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?

- Examples....
 - Outdated forms
 - Filing Fee issues
 - Cannabis
 - Spouses and children
 - Being too honest
 - Referral to Immigration Judge for Deportation

MOST COMMON REASONS FOR DENIAL

- Lack of GMC
- Failure to respond to a request for more evidence
- Civics/English Requirements

N-400 FORM AND FILING

- Let's take a look at the form: N-400 <https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>
- What does it cost? \$640 (Add the \$85 biometric fee for a total of \$725). You may pay the fee with a money order, personal check, cashier's check. If you pay by check, you must make your check payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Exceptions:

Applicants 75 years of age or older do not need to pay a biometric fee. They only need to pay the \$640 filing fee.

No fee is required for military applicants filing under section 328 or 329 of the INA.

- How long does it take?/Steps after filing: Receipt Notice, Fingerprints, Interview, Decision

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

- Sponsored by the UFCW International - No out of pocket costs to the local
- IU provides attorneys, structure, and materials such as screening sheets, flyer samples, and liability waivers.
- Local provides support staff/volunteers, place, members, and supplies.
- With as complicated as this process can be why on earth would we ask your local members to help with this?

WORKSHOPS

- Registration/Check-in
- Pre-Screening
- Application Completion
- Legal Review (ATTORNEYS)
- Check Out
- Quality Control
- Package Assembly
- Copy/Photo Station
- Postage/Mailing



Screening is a Must!

RESOURCES

USCIS: <https://www.uscis.gov/>

N-400 Information: <https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>

Test Questions:

English-
<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/questions-and-answers/100q.pdf>

Multilingual- <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/find-study-materials-and-resources/citizenship-multilingual-resources>

Selective Service Verification:

<https://www.sss.gov/verify/>

Novo Legal Group: 303 335 0250

<https://www.novo-legal.com/>

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