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Naturalization & Certificate of Citizenship

→ What do I need to apply?

- 1- Be 18-years old or older at the time of filing
- 2- Be a green card holder
- 3- Show "continuous permanent residence" in the US for at least 5-years (or 3-years if you are married to a US Citizen)
- 4- Show you have been "physically present" in the US for 30-months (or 8-months if you are married to a US Citizen)
- 5- Show that you have lived at least 3 months in the state or USCIS district where you claim residence
- 6- Show you have a good moral character
- 7- Show you can speak, read, and write basic English and have an understanding of the US history and government.

*Note: you can file your application if you've been a green card holder for 4 years and 9 months (or 2 years and 9 months if you obtained your green card through marriage to a US Citizen).

*Note: if applying based on marriage to US Citizen, you can apply even if your I-751 Application to Remove Conditions is still pending.

*Note: "Continuous residence" breaks if you've been absent from the US for more than 6-months but less than 1-year (unless can prove otherwise ex. military, maintained US employment, immediate family in US, own/lease home in US., **OR** absent from the US for 1-year or more or had multiple 6-month trips (meaning you've abandoned your permanent residency).

*Note: "Physical presence" requires that you were present in the US for 30-months (or 913 days) within the 5-year period before applying (or 18-months/548 days within the 3-year period if based on marriage). That is not met if you have not been present in the US for the required time.

→ What are the steps?

- 1) File the **APPLICATION**, supporting documents, and government fee. If you qualify for a fee waiver, the **FEE WAIVER** application must also be included.
- 2) Receive **RECEIPT** from USCIS 2-3 weeks from filing date.
- 3) Receive **BIOMETRICS** appointment from USCIS 3-4 weeks from filing date and attend to **COMPLETE** your biometrics.
- 4) Receive **INTERVIEW** date approx. 90-days from biometrics appointment date, and attend interview where you will be tested for English (basic reading, writing, and speaking) and Civics (U.S. history and government), unless you qualify for an exemption.
- 5) When you **PASS**, you will be invited to attend an **OATH CEREMONY**. You will return your green card and receive your Certificate of Naturalization-CONGRATULATIONS!

*THEN, if you have children, you can now apply for their Certificate of Citizenship if they were under 18-years old when you received your Certificate of Naturalization. Also, you can now apply for your US Passport and register to vote!

→ Who qualifies for Exemptions?

- I – Age **50 years** or older and lived in the US **20-years**, is exempt from English language requirement only, still required to take the Civic test in your own language, and must bring own interpreter.
- II – Age **55 years** or older and lived in the US for **15-years**, is exempt from English language requirement only, still required to take the Civic test in your own language, and must bring own interpreter.
- III – Age **65 years** or older and lived in the US for **20-years**, is exempt from English language requirement only, still required to take the Civic test in your own language (LIMITED), and must bring own interpreter.
- IV – **Medical Disability** (N-648) waives English and Civics examination

Notice: This document shall not be construed as legal advice. This is only general information to commonly asked questions.