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**Information on N-648 – Medical Certification for Disability Exception**

Form N-648 Medical Certification for Disability Exception can waive the English and civics requirements for applicants with certain disabilities and medical conditions. The medical condition must make it **impossible** for the applicant to learn English or civics. Difficulties learning English or civics may not be sufficient. Applicants have the option of asking USCIS to waive the English requirement, the civics requirement, or both.

**Form N-648 may only be completed by a medical doctor, clinical psychologist, or doctor of osteopathy.** The N-648 may also be completed by a member of that person’s staff, but the doctor is responsible for signing and certifying it. The form may not be completed by an applicant’s advocate for the doctor’s signature.

Form N-648 may be submitted with the applicant’s N-400 Application for Naturalization or brought to the applicant’s naturalization interview. Project Citizenship recommends looking over the N-648 before the applicant submits it and working with the applicant’s doctor if the responses are too brief, lack detail, or do not sufficiently explain how the applicant’s disability is connected to an inability to learn English or civics. **This Workshop Manual contains a letter for the doctor that explains the N-648 in detail and provides examples of sufficient and insufficient answers.** Advocates can use these materials as a starting point for discussions with the applicant’s doctor.GBCI will also accept referrals for the N-648 if necessary.

**Please be aware that the applicant will not know if USCIS has granted the waiver until the time of the interview.** If the waiver is denied, the applicant may terminate the interview and return for a second interview with a revised copy of the N-648. If this N-648 is also denied, the applicant will have to proceed in English and take the civics test, which could lead to a denial of citizenship and the loss of any paid application fee.