

 **General Steps in the Naturalization Process**

**Step 1. Determine if you are already a U.S. citizen.**

**What to do:** If you are not a U.S. citizen by birth, or you did not acquire or derive U.S. citizenship from your parent(s) automatically after birth, go to the next step.

**Step 2. Determine if you are eligible to become a U.S. citizen.**

**What to do:** Review the naturalization eligibility worksheet to help you decide if you are eligible to apply for naturalization.

**Step 3. Prepare your Form N-400 Naturalization Application.**

**What to do:** Download the form and read the instructions. Get 2 passport-style photos and collect the necessary documents to demonstrate your eligibility for naturalization.

**Step 4. Submit your Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.**Once you submit Form N-400, USCIS will send you a receipt notice. You can check current processing times and the status of your application online or by calling the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (hearing impaired).

**Step 5. Go to the biometrics appointment, if applicable.**

**What to do:** If you need to take biometrics, USCIS will send you an appointment notice that includes your biometrics appointment date, time, and location. Arrive at the designated location at the scheduled time. Have your biometrics taken.

 **Step 6. Complete the interview.**Once all the preliminary processes on your case are complete, USCIS will schedule an interview with you to complete the naturalization process. You must report to the USCIS office at the date and time on your appointment notice. Please bring the appointment notice with you.

 **OVER**

**Step 7. Receive a decision from USCIS on your Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.**

USCIS will issue you a written notice of decision.

**Granted**—USCIS may approve your Form N-400 if the evidence in your record establishes that you are eligible for naturalization.

**Continued**—USCIS may continue your application if you need to provide additional evidence/documentation, fail to provide USCIS the correct documents, or fail the English and/or civics test the first time.

**Denied**—USCIS will deny your Form N-400 if the evidence in your record establishes you are not eligible for naturalization.

**Step 8. Receive a notice to take the *Oath of Allegiance*.**

**What to expect:** If USCIS approved your Form N-400 in step 7, you may be able to participate in a naturalization ceremony on the same day as your interview. If a same day naturalization ceremony is unavailable, USCIS will mail you a notification with the date, time, and location of your scheduled ceremony.

**Step 9. Take the *Oath of Allegiance* to the United States.**

You are not a U.S. citizen until you take the *Oath of Allegiance* at a naturalization ceremony.

**What to do:** Complete the questionnaire on Form N-445, Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony. Report for your naturalization ceremony and check in with USCIS. A USCIS officer will review your responses to Form N-445. Turn in your Permanent Resident Card (Green Card). Take the *Oath of Allegiance* to become a U.S. citizen. Receive your Certificate of Naturalization, review it, and notify USCIS of any errors you see on your certificate before leaving the ceremony site.

**Step 10. Understanding U.S. citizenship.**

Citizenship is the common thread that connects all Americans. Check out this list of some of the most important rights and responsibilities that all citizens—both Americans by birth and by choice—should exercise, honor, and respect.

 **Rights**

* Freedom to express yourself.
* Freedom to worship as you wish.
* Right to a prompt, fair trial by jury.
* Right to vote in elections for public officials.
* Right to apply for federal employment requiring U.S. citizenship.
* Right to run for elected offices
* Freedom to pursue “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

 **Responsibilities**

* Support and defend the Constitution.
* Stay informed of the issues affecting your community.
* Participate in the democratic process.
* Respect and obey federal, state, and local laws.
* Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.
* Participate in your local community.
* Pay income and other taxes honestly, and on time, to federal, state, and local authorities.
* Serve on a jury when called upon.
* Defend the country if the need should arise.