



## **Unlawful acts** may affect if you can become a U.S. citizen!

An unlawful act is *any* violation of law committed during the last 5 years (or 3 years if you're applying for citizenship based on marriage to a U.S. citizen).

### **YOUR CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION MAY STILL BE DENIED EVEN IF YOU WERE NOT ARRESTED, IMPRISONED, OR CHARGED.**

Examples of unlawful acts include:

- Failure to pay ALL federal and/or state taxes that you owe
- Falsely claiming U.S. citizenship
- Failure of males who lived in the U.S. between ages 18 and 26 to register for Selective Service
- Registering to vote or voting in a U.S. election
- Willful failure to support dependents / pay child support
- Conviction for ANY crime during the last 5 years (or 3 years, if applying based on marriage)

If you have committed an unlawful act and apply for naturalization, you may be asked to **explain** and **provide evidence** about any extenuating circumstances for USCIS to determine if the unlawful act adversely reflects on moral character.

*If you do not explain or provide evidence, your citizenship application will likely be denied. Your application may still be denied if USCIS determines the unlawful act adversely reflects on moral character even when considering an explanation or evidence.*