

# HOW TO BECOME A CITIZEN

**Although seemingly straightforward, the process of applying for citizenship or naturalization is complicated and involves a review of your entire immigration file and history from how you became a permanent resident until today.**

**Below are a general list of requirements, we strongly recommend you contact our office so that we can review your application and eligibility in more detail.**

1. I am at least 18 years old.
2. I am a Permanent Resident of the United States, and I have been issued a Permanent Resident Card (formerly called Alien Registration Card).
3. I have been a Permanent Resident for 5 years, or 3 years if I received permanent residency through my US Citizen Spouse (and I continue to reside with that spouse)
4. During the last five years, I have **not** been out of the United States for 30 months or more.
5. During the last five years (or the last three years if I qualify) I have not taken a trip out of the United States that lasted one year or more.
6. I have resided in the district or state in which I am applying for citizenship for the last three months.
7. I can read, write and speak basic English – by answering a series of questions related to this application.
8. I know the fundamentals of U.S. history and the form and principles of the U.S. government – by passing a test on U.S. history and Civics and am able to read and write in basic English.
9. I am a person of good moral character (not having been convicted of a crime within the last 5 years) CAUTION – If you have been arrested/detained for any crime (including DUI/DWI and other serious traffic matters) – make sure to present our office with a CERTIFIED DISPOSITION of each offense for which you were arrested. We must review this information to ensure you are still eligible and will not have any consequences – such as loss of your green card.
10. One of the following is true: **(a)** I am female, **or (b)** I am a male registered with the Selective Service, **or (c)** I am a male who did not enter the United States under any status until after my 26th birthday, **or (d)** I am a male who was in the United States between the ages of 18 and 26 but who did not register with the Selective Service, and I will send a “Status Information Letter” from the Selective Service explaining why I did not register with my application.
11. I have never deserted from the U.S. Armed Forces.

12. I have never received an exemption or discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces on the grounds that I am an alien.
13. I am willing to perform either military **or** civilian service for the United States if required by law.
14. I will support the Constitution of the United States.
15. I understand and am willing to take an oath of allegiance to the United States.
16. I do not owe any taxes
17. I have made all required child support payments.
18. I have obtained my permanent residency in a proper manner and continue to be a valid permanent resident.

## **CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT TEST IN NATIVE LANGUAGE IF CERTAIN AGE**

If I am over 50 years old and have lived in the United States for at least 20 years since I be-came a Permanent Resident, **or**

I am over 55 years old and have lived in the United States for at least 15 years since I be-came a Permanent Resident.

## **EXEMPTION FROM TESTING BECAUSE OF MEDICAL CONDITION**

I have a disability that prevents me from fulfilling this requirement and will be filing a Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions completed and signed by a doctor with my application.

We recommend our office review your medical exemption and accompany you to your interview to ensure that it meets increasingly stringent criteria to be exempted from having to take the above tests.