

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Continuous residence for naturalization: actual home and extended absences

What does continuous residence mean for a naturalization application?

USCIS treats continuous residence as a question about actual dwelling and the continuity of the required residence period. It is distinct from counting days of physical presence. Extended absences can trigger a rebuttable presumption or a break, subject to the applicable naturalization provision and exceptions.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ List every absence with reliable departure and return dates.
- ☐ Identify actual living arrangements during the absence.
- ☐ Preserve continuing employment, family and home evidence where relevant.
- ☐ Separate continuity from the total physical-presence calculation.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

USCIS: Continuous residence: naturalization policy

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-d-chapter-3>

USCIS: Physical presence: naturalization policy

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-d-chapter-4>

USCIS: International travel as a permanent resident

<https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/after-we-grant-your-green-card/international-travel-as-a-permanent-resident>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

<https://immigrantinsider.com/editorial-policy/>

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Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/citizenship/continuous-residence/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.