

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Long absences: residence abandonment and citizenship residence are different tests

Does a long trip affect my Green Card and naturalization in the same way?

A long absence can raise separate questions about resident travel documents, abandonment of residence and naturalization's continuous residence. USCIS's naturalization policy distinguishes absences longer than six months but shorter than one year from absences of a year or more, subject to applicable exceptions.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Calculate trip dates from reliable departure and return records.
- ☐ Keep the reason for an extended stay separate from the document's validity.
- ☐ Distinguish abandonment, continuous residence and physical presence.
- ☐ Preserve U.S. employment, family and home evidence without assuming it guarantees a result.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

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>

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>

U.S. Department of State: Returning resident visas: distinct consular inquiry

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/returning-resident.html>

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Source links (continued)

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/lpr/long-absence/>

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.