

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Marriage-based naturalization: citizenship, marriage and living together

Does being married to a U.S. citizen automatically create a three-year citizenship route?

Marriage to a citizen does not automatically establish naturalization eligibility. The specified spouse framework includes residence and presence requirements, while USCIS separately examines a legally valid marriage, the citizen spouse's status and applicable marital-union requirements continuing through the relevant stages.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the applicable spouse naturalization provision.
- ☐ Preserve marriage and any prior-marriage termination records.
- ☐ Distinguish legal marriage from actual shared residence.
- ☐ Keep later changes, travel and the citizen spouse's status visible through the oath.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: Marriage and marital union for naturalization

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-g-chapter-2>

Office of the Federal Register / eCFR: 8CFR319.1: marriage-based naturalization framework

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-8/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-319/section-319.1>

USCIS: Continuous residence: naturalization policy

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

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Source links (continued)

USCIS: Physical presence: naturalization policy

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

USCIS: Naturalization ceremonies

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/naturalization-ceremonies>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

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<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/citizenship/marriage-naturalization/>

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.