

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Good moral character for naturalization: period, records and expungements

Does an expunged or older record stop mattering in a naturalization application?

USCIS assesses good moral character during the applicable statutory period and through naturalization, and earlier conduct can matter. A state expungement does not automatically remove a conviction's immigration significance. The actual records and federal definition require careful, case-specific legal analysis.

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 actual naturalization provision and relevant dates.
- ☐ Preserve the complete disposition and any later order.
- ☐ Distinguish a state label from a federal immigration conclusion.
- ☐ Keep sensitive records in a confidential review channel.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: Good moral character adjudication

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

USCIS: N-400: Naturalization

<https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>

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/>

Good moral character for naturalization: period, records and expungements

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/citizenship/moral-character/>

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.