

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Name changes during naturalization: existing legal change or new court request

Can USCIS itself change my name when I naturalize?

USCIS distinguishes an existing legal name change from a new name requested through naturalization. USCIS cannot itself authorize a name change. Its facilitated new-name process uses a court petition and a judicial oath ceremony, while an earlier legal change needs the authoritative supporting record.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify whether the legal change already occurred or is newly requested.
- ☐ Preserve the complete authoritative record for any earlier change.
- ☐ Distinguish an officer-recorded request from completed court action.
- ☐ Keep the name-change record with the naturalization certificate for later identity uses.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: Commonly asked questions about naturalization: name change

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/commonly-asked-questions-about-the-naturalization-process>

USCIS: Naturalization ceremonies

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

U.S. Department of State: Passport application: citizenship evidence and document distinctions

<https://travel.state.gov/en/passports/apply/help/citizenship-evidence.html>

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/name-change/>

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.