

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

The naturalization process: application, examination, decision and oath

What are the main stages of becoming a citizen through naturalization?

Naturalization has distinct application, examination, decision and oath stages. Each produces a different record, and an approval is not the final citizenship event. The right study material, evidence and ceremony documentation depend on the applicable official instructions.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Save the filed application and identify its actual filing date.
- ☐ Select official civics resources for the applicable test version.
- ☐ Preserve changes and new records occurring after filing.
- ☐ Read the actual ceremony notice and inspect the resulting certificate.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: N-400: Naturalization

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

USCIS: Naturalization interview and test

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/the-naturalization-interview-and-test>

USCIS: Good moral character adjudication

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

USCIS: Naturalization ceremonies

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

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Source links (continued)

USCIS: Commonly asked questions about naturalization: name change

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

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

Return to the complete guide

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

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.