

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

The naturalization oath: approval, ceremony and certificate

When does an approved naturalization applicant become a citizen?

USCIS distinguishes N-400 approval from becoming a citizen at the Oath of Allegiance. The ceremony may be administrative or judicial, and the certificate follows the oath. Read the actual N-445 notice and check the issued certificate before leaving the ceremony.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Keep the approval and actual ceremony notice as different records.
- ☐ Read every appointment and questionnaire instruction on N-445.
- ☐ Check the certificate's identity details before leaving.
- ☐ Follow State's separate passport instructions if applying afterward.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: Naturalization ceremonies

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

USCIS: Commonly asked questions about naturalization: name change

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

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

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.