

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Physical presence for naturalization: actual days in the United States

How is physical presence different from the years shown on a Green Card?

Physical presence counts actual time in the United States, separately from continuous residence. USCIS's general INA 316(a) framework requires thirty months, expressed as 913 days. Other categories have their own rules, and card possession does not prove the required time.

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 naturalization provision before applying a presence number.
- ☐ List actual departure and return dates with their evidence.
- ☐ Apply the official departure-and-return-day rule consistently.
- ☐ Flag uncertain dates and assess continuous residence separately.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: Physical presence: naturalization policy

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

USCIS: Continuous residence: naturalization policy

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

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>

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/physical-presence/>

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.