

# NATURALIZATION

## What are the Qualifications

In order to qualify for naturalization, you must be 18 years of age, a lawful permanent resident (LPR) for a required amount of time based on qualification type. LPR's in any capacity and married to a U.S. citizen can naturalize in three years, if married to the U.S. citizen throughout that period and at the time of the interview. All other individuals (except for members of the military) can apply after being an LPR for five years. Members of the military who served honorably for one year (or periods totaling one year) and apply within six months of honorable discharge and can apply for after one year. You must be physically and continuous present in the United States as required. You must be in the U.S. for 50% of the required period. Trips of one year or more (with exceptions for those employed by the U.S. government) will disrupt residency. You must be a person of good moral character and be able to read/ write and understand basic English,

## Waivers and Accommodations

- Those who have been LPR's for 20 years and are over 50 can take the civics/ history test in their own language.
- The same rule applies for those who have been LPR's for 15 years and are over 55.
- Those over 65 who have been an LPR for 20 years or more need only study 20 of the 100 questions and must get 6/10 correct.

## Supporting documentation?

- Passport photos
- Permanent Resident Card
- Government Fees
- Fee Waivers (if applicable)
- Selective service registration (if applicable)
- A valid state-issued identification, (i.e. driver's license)
- Valid and/or expired passports

## Bars to Natrualization

- Committing murder or being convicted of an aggravated felony is a bar to citizenship
  - Persons with such histories who apply are likely to be placed in removal proceedings.
  - Examples of aggravated felonies include rape, forgery, money laundering, tax evasion, theft convictions, obstruction of justice, etc
- Applicants association with a totalitarian or terrorist organization, unless under duress in certain circumstances
  - Duress means you received threats, violence or other action causing you to act against your will or better judgment.
- Applicant falsely claimed to be a U.S. citizen (job/school application)
  - claiming U.S. citizenship in any capacity bars you from applying for naturalization

- Travel documents that have been issued by USCIS
- Proof of your current legal marital status, such as your original marriage certificate, divorce decree, annulment decree, death certificate (if your spouse has passed away) and any other records that confirm the history of your marital status and the validity of your current marriage
- Any documents that serve as evidence of a legal name change

For more information on natrualization, please visit [Baji.org](https://baji.org).

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