A Guide to Naturalization

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

M-476 (rev. 11/16)
# Table of Contents

**Welcome**  
Page 1

**What Are the Benefits and Responsibilities of Citizenship?**  
Page 3

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
Page 5

**Who Is Eligible for Naturalization?**  
Page 17

- Table of Eligibility Requirements  
  Page 18
- Time as a Permanent Resident  
  Page 22
- Continuous Residence  
  Page 22
- Physical Presence in the United States  
  Page 23
- Time as a Resident in a USCIS District or State  
  Page 24
- Good Moral Character  
  Page 25
- English and Civics  
  Page 26
- Attachment to the Constitution  
  Page 28

**What Should I Expect From the Naturalization Process?**  
Page 31

- Preparing to Apply  
  Page 32
- Completing Your Application  
  Page 33
- Getting Biometrics Taken  
  Page 35
- Being Interviewed  
  Page 36
- Taking the Oath  
  Page 38

**What Kind of Customer Service Can I Expect?**  
Page 41

**Where Do I Go for Help?**  
Page 43

**Glossary of Terms**  
Page 45
This page is intentionally left blank.
Welcome

We are very pleased that you want to become a U.S. citizen. The United States is a nation of immigrants. Throughout our history, immigrants have come here seeking a better way of life and have strengthened our Nation in the process.

For more than 200 years, the United States has remained strong because of our citizens and the common civic values we share. Deciding to become a U.S. citizen is one of the most important decisions in a person’s life. If you decide to apply for naturalization, you will be showing your permanent commitment to the United States. You will also be showing your loyalty to its Constitution and its people.

When you are naturalized, you agree to accept all of the responsibilities of being a citizen. You agree to support the United States, its Constitution, and its laws. In return, you are rewarded with all the rights and privileges that are part of citizenship. We welcome your interest and hope you will read on to learn more about naturalization.

What Is Naturalization?
Naturalization is commonly referred to as the manner in which a person not born in the United States voluntarily becomes a U.S. citizen.

What Is This Guide for?
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) created this Guide to provide better and more consistent information to people interested in naturalization. It is written mainly for people 18 years or older who want to become citizens. Please take the time to review this information to make sure that you are eligible to apply for naturalization. You can find more information at www.uscis.gov or by calling Customer Service at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (for hearing impaired).

E Pluribus Unum - Out of Many, One

-Motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States