
CITIZENSHIP FACT SHEET

Naturalization Application Process

Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen or national after he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). In most cases, an applicant for naturalization must be a legal permanent resident (green card holder) before filing. Except for certain U.S. military members and their dependents, naturalization can only be granted in the United States.

You May Qualify for Naturalization if:

- You have been a legal permanent resident for at least 5 years and meet all other eligibility requirements.
- You have been a legal permanent resident for 3 years or more and meet all eligibility requirements to file as a spouse of a U.S. citizen.
- You have qualifying service in the U.S. armed forces and meet all other eligibility requirements.
- Your child may qualify for naturalization if you are a U.S. citizen, the child was born outside the U.S., the child is currently residing outside the U.S., and all other eligibility requirements are met.

Are you a Legal Permanent Resident?

The following are your eligibility requirements in order to qualify for naturalization:

- ❖ Be 18 or older.
- ❖ Be a legal permanent resident for at least 5 years (3 years for a spouse of a U.S. citizen) immediately preceding the date of filing the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
- ❖ Have lived within the state, or USCIS district with jurisdiction over the applicant's place of residence, for at least 3 months prior to the date of filing the application.
- ❖ Have continuous residence in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for at least 5 years (3 years for a spouse of a U.S. citizen) immediately preceding the date of the filing the application.
- ❖ Be physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the 5 years (18 months out of the 3 years for a spouse of a U.S. citizen) immediately preceding the date of filing the application.
- ❖ Reside continuously within the United States from the date of application for naturalization up to the time of naturalization.
- ❖ Be able to read, write, and speak English and have knowledge and an understanding of U.S. history and government (civics).
- ❖ Be a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States during all relevant periods under the law.
- ❖ If you are a spouse of a U.S. citizen and have been living in marital union with your spouse, who has been a U.S. citizen during all of such period, during the 3 years immediately preceding the date of filing the application and up until examination on the application.

Note: There are exceptions and modifications to the naturalization requirements that are available to those who qualify. USCIS also provides accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

How to Apply for Naturalization?

- Prepare for taking the naturalization test before you apply. See the back page for where you can find help with your preparation.
- Submit your application (e.g., "Application for Naturalization" [Form N-400]), documents, and fee to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Where can you get help?

There are many resources available to naturalization applicants. You may contact or visit the following:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

For information about immigration and naturalization, download or get relevant forms, such as Form N-400, *Guide to Naturalization*, etc.), and other information, including educational materials to help you prepare for the English and civic tests, or to speak with an Immigration Officer.

<i>Customer Service</i>	1-800-375-5283
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<i>Website</i>	www.uscis.gov
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2-1-1 Santa Clara County

2-1-1 is a free, non-emergency, confidential, 3 digit phone number and service that provides streamlined access to critical health and human services, including **legal, immigration and criminal services**. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in over 170 different languages.

<i>Telephone</i>	211
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<i>TTY</i>	1-866-390-6845
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<i>Outside of Santa Clara County</i>	1-866-896-3587
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Santa Clara County's Office of Human relations

The Office of Human Relations (OHR) provides an array of services to the residents of Santa Clara County that promote equality, justice and peace in our community. One of its programs is the Free Citizenship Days, which allow thousands of county residents become US citizens. For more information, call **(408) 792-2300**.

Immigrant Info.org

ImmigrantInfo.org is the first ESL website in the country with an interactive database listing county-wide ESL classes that are frequently updated.

<i>Website</i>	www.immigrantinfo.org
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Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

The following are some of the CBOs within Santa Clara County that offer immigration and citizenship services:

Asian Law Alliance	184 E. Jackson Street, San Jose, CA	(408) 287-9710
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County	2625 Zanker Road, Suite 200, San Jose,	(408) 468-0100 TTY 1-800-735-
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara	7950 Church Street, Gilroy, CA 95020	(408) 914-8337
Center for Employment Training	701 Vine Street, Room 112, San Jose, CA	(408) 534-5451
Immigrant Resettlement and Cultural Center (IRCC)	1445 Koll Circle, Suite 110, San Jose, CA 95112	(408) 452-5784
International Rescue Committee		(408) 453-3536
Jewish Family Services of Silicon	14855 Oka Road, Suite 202, Los Gatos,	(408) 556-0600
Katharine and George Alexander Community Law Center (KGACLC) – Santa	1030 The Alameda, San Jose CA 95126	(408) 288-7030
Sacred Heart Community Service	1381 South First St., San Jose, CA 95110	(408) 278-2160
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)	1425 Koll Circle, Suite 109, San Jose, CA 95112	(408) 453-3003
Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation	2260 Quimby Rd, San Jose, CA 95122	(408) 532-7755