

Becoming a U.S. Citizen Flowchart

Adjusting Your Status from lawful permanent resident (LPR), or green card holder, to citizen

Eligibility for citizenship begins after a refugee has obtained her or his permanent residency and has lived in the United States for at least 5 years. The process of becoming a citizen is called *naturalization*.

Step 1

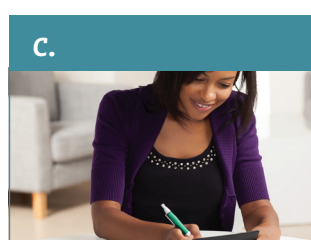
Fill out the Application for Naturalization (N-400). To submit your application you will need to do the following:



Make a copy of both sides of your Permanent Resident Card.

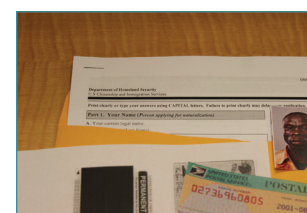


Obtain two passport-style photos.



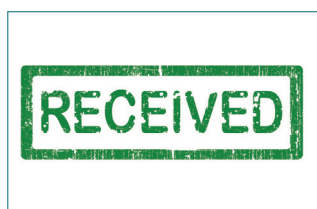
Pay for the application with a check or money order.

Step 2



Submit your Application for Naturalization.

Step 3



Receive a notice from USCIS telling you that they have received your application.

Step 4



Receive a letter for an appointment with biometric (fingerprinting) services from USCIS.

Step 5



Visit a USCIS fingerprinting location and have your fingerprints taken.

Step 6



Receive an appointment for an interview with a USCIS officer.

Step 7

Attend the interview at the USCIS office. Bring the following things:



State-issued identification (e.g., a driver's license)



Permanent Resident Card



Any other required documents requested by USCIS

The Naturalization Test

To become a U.S. citizen, you must pass the USCIS Naturalization Test. This is a test of your ability to speak, read, and write English and of your knowledge of civics (U.S. history and government). There are classes you can take to help you prepare for the test. Your resettlement agency can help you find classes near you. There are also online materials you can use to help you study for the test. Some of these study materials cost money. However, USCIS provides materials free of charge. They can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/mhhu6x8>.

Step 8



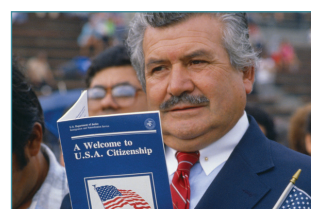
Take the USCIS Naturalization Test.

Step 9



Wait for a decision on your case.

Step 10



Swear in as a U.S. citizen.

If you do not pass the naturalization test the first time, you can take it a second time without having to apply again. If you do not pass the second time, you will have to apply again.

After a parent becomes a U.S. citizen, her/his children who are under the age of 18 can become U.S. citizens through a simpler process that does not include the naturalization test. For more information about U.S. citizenship for children under 18, visit <http://tinyurl.com/m9dm8ce>.