

## The U.S. Citizenship Process Learn about Naturalization Website in Spanish

<http://www.welcometousa.gov/>

<http://www.uscis.gov>

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis-es>

**Naturalization is how a person not born in the United States becomes a U.S. citizen.**

### Eligibility Requirements

- Be at least 18 years old at the time of filing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
- Be a permanent resident (have a "green card") for at least 5 years.
- Have lived within the state or USCIS district with jurisdiction over your place of residence for at least 3 months prior to the date of filing Form N-400.
- Have continuous residence in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Be physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Be able to read, write, and speak basic English.
- Have a basic understanding of U.S. history and government (civics).

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- Be a person of good moral character.
- Demonstrate an attachment to the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution

### General Steps in the Process

- Download Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.  
**(Fee \$680 Check or Money order from US Bank to Department of Homeland Security)**
- Complete your application.
- Have two passport-style photographs taken.
- Collect the necessary documents.
- Send your application package and filing fee to the appropriate Lockbox Facility or Service Center.  
**US Postal Service address for NJ is USCIS, PO Box 660060, Dallas, Texas 75266**
- Receive an appointment letter for biometric services from USCIS.
- Visit a USCIS fingerprinting location and have fingerprints taken.
- Receive an appointment for an interview with a USCIS Officer.
- Go to your local USCIS office at the specified time.  
Peter Rodino Federal Building 970 Broad Street Newark, NJ 07102.
- Bring state-issued identification, Permanent Resident Card, any documents specific to your case
- Answer questions about your application and background.
- Take the English and civics tests.
- Await a decision on your case. **(Average is 5 months to process an N-400 application)**

**CASE STATUS: Enter 13 character Applicant Receipt # to check online at uscis.gov**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) toll-free for automated information and live assistance concerning immigration Services and Benefits

**1 (800) 375-5283 English and Spanish speakers Open 8am-5pm M-F**