

# Becoming a U.S. Citizen: An Overview of the Naturalization Process

Notes from the USCIS Presentation available at: [www.uscis.gov/civicsmultimedia](http://www.uscis.gov/civicsmultimedia)

1. Most of you can apply to become U.S. citizens after living in the United States for \_\_\_\_\_ years, or \_\_\_\_\_ years if you are married to a U.S. citizen.
2. Benefits that citizens enjoy include:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
3. The process of becoming a citizen is called naturalization.
4. There are several steps:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
5. Even if you are not eligible to apply for naturalization right now, there are things you can do to make sure you can become a citizen when you are ready, including:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
6. You can get help from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). At that website, you can get:
  - *Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants* [www.uscis.gov/newimmigrants](http://www.uscis.gov/newimmigrants)
  - Civics flashcards <http://www.uscis.gov/civicsflashcards>
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - *A Guide to Naturalization* [www.uscis.gov/natzguide](http://www.uscis.gov/natzguide)

7. There are other things you must do now to qualify for naturalization. You must:

- Pay income tax
- Sign up for selective service
- Let USCIS know when you move or change address
- Maintain continuous residence
- Maintain physical presence

8. There are some things you must NOT do. You must avoid behaviors that might show LACK of good moral character. Examples of what might be considered a lack of good moral character are:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

9. Remember to respect and obey the law: \_\_\_\_\_!

10. When you apply for naturalization, you must report \_\_\_\_\_ crimes you have committed.

11. Some minor crimes will not keep you from becoming a citizen, but if you lie about your criminal record, your \_\_\_\_\_ may keep you from becoming a citizen.

12. Also, if you commit certain crimes, you can never become a U.S. citizen. These crimes include:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

13. After you have been in the United States as a legal permanent resident for 5 years (or 3 years if you are married to a U.S. citizen) you can start the process of becoming a citizen.

14. For more information about preparing to become a U.S. citizen, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).