

Naturalization Interview Checklist

What to Take to the Naturalization Interview

After filing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, keep a folder that contains a copy of your application, originals of all supporting documentation, and any communication you receive from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This early preparation will help you stay organized and prepared for the interview day. Take this folder to your interview.

Start by reviewing your custom filing instructions from CitizenPath.com. Our instructions give you a simple list of items to take to the naturalization interview that has been customized based on your application. But make sure you have all items requested in the list provided by USCIS when they send your appointment notice.

Documents that you must take your citizenship interview include:

- ☐ Interview appointment notice
- ☐ Permanent resident card (also known as a green card)
- ☐ Your driver's license or other state-issued identification card
- ☐ All current and expired passports and travel documents

Depending on your individual case, you may need to have other items with you when you appear for a naturalization interview. Take original documents unless otherwise indicated. Depending on your N-400 answers, you may need to take these items:

- ☐ Marital Status – Take evidence of your current marital status. Examples of acceptable documents include a marriage certificate, divorce decree, annulment decree, or death certificate of former spouse.
- ☐ Termination of Prior Marriages – If you're currently married, you must be able to prove that all of your previous marriages (if applicable) and your current spouse's previous marriages have been terminated. Examples of acceptable documents include divorce decrees, annulment decrees or death certificates.
- ☐ Filing as a Spouse of a U.S. Citizen – If you filed Form N-400 on the basis of marriage to a U.S. citizen, you'll need to prove that your spouse has

been a U.S. citizen for at least three years and that you and your spouse lived in marital union for at least three years. In addition the marriage certificate, take documents such as tax returns, lease agreements, bank statements, utility bills, car titles, insurance statements, and any other documents during the three-year period that help establish proof of your marital union.

- ☐ Tax Returns – Take evidence that you have complied with your obligation to file an income tax return for at least the past five years (three years if filing on the basis of marriage to a U.S. citizen). Take copies of your complete tax returns or an IRS Tax Transcript listing tax information for the requisite years. To obtain a free IRS Tax Transcript go to the IRS website at <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript>.
- ☐ Children – Take evidence that all of the children listed on your naturalization application are your children. Examples of acceptable documents include birth certificates or adoption decrees.
- ☐ Support for Dependents – If you have dependent children living apart from you, take evidence to establish that you support each dependent child and that you have complied with child support obligations. An inability to prove this may lead to a denial of naturalization due to not meeting the good moral character requirement. Examples of acceptable documents include cancelled checks, money order receipts, a court or agency document showing child support payments, evidence of wage garnishments, or a letter from the parent or guardian of the child(ren).
- ☐ Overdue Taxes – If your payment(s) of any Federal, State, or local taxes are overdue, take a signed agreement from that tax agency showing that you have arranged to pay the taxes you owe, and documentation from the same agency showing the current status of your payments.
- ☐ Selective Service Registration – If you are a male who lived in the United States any time between your 18th and 26th birthdays, take proof that you registered for the Selective Service. (This does not include living in the U.S. as a lawful nonimmigrant.) Use the Selective Service Online Verification to generate a letter <https://www.sss.gov/Home/Verification>.
- ☐ Trips Outside the United States – If you have taken a trip(s) outside the United States for more than six months but less than one year, take documentation to establish that you maintained continuous residence in the U.S. during your absence. Failure to prove you maintained continuous residence may lead to a denial of your application. Examples of acceptable documents include documentation to show that you did not terminate

employment in the U.S., did not obtain employment while abroad, your immediate family remained in the U.S., and/or you retained full access to your place of residence in the U.S. We also recommend that you speak to an immigration attorney before attending the interview.

- ☐ Arrests/Detainments/Convictions – If you were ever arrested, detained, or convicted, you will need to take evidence of the disposition for each incident. We highly recommend that you speak to an immigration attorney to properly address this situation before attending the interview.
- ☐ Filing as a Spouse of a U.S. Citizen Stationed Abroad – If you are filing under 319(b) of the INA, take evidence of your U.S. citizen spouse's qualifying employment or contract abroad, such as an employment contract or travel orders, that include your name as a spouse, to establish that your spouse's employment abroad is scheduled to last for at least one year from the date you filed your Form N-400. You must also take a written statement declaring your intent to reside abroad with your U.S. citizen spouse and to take up residence within the United States immediately after the termination of your citizen spouse's employment abroad.
- ☐ Military Members – If you have ever served in the U.S. military or are applying based on military service under sections 328 or 329 of the INA, take an original and certified Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service. If you are a veteran and were separated from the U.S. Armed Forces at the time of filing Form N-400, you may submit an uncertified Form N-426 only if you bring a photocopy of your DD Form 214 (or photocopies of multiple DD Form 214s) for all periods of service captured on Form N-426. National Guard members who file for naturalization after separation from service may submit NGB Form 22 in lieu of Form N-426.

You do not need to offer any of the information listed above until asked by the USCIS officer conducting your interview. In many cases, the officer won't even ask for some of these documents. If you have the information ready, you'll avoid delays and be on your way to U.S. citizenship.