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IMMIGRATION  
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Naturalization Do's and Dont's

## **DO...**

- Seek advice from an Immigration Attorney to confirm your eligibility BEFORE you apply.
- Fill out your application using all capital letters.
- Answer every question. Write "None" or "N/A" if the question does not apply to you.
- Get legal advice before you file if you answer "yes" to any questions #1-32 in Part 10.
- Read the Oath of Allegiance in Part 14.
- Include a copy of your valid dr's license or state id card with updated address.
- Keep a photocopy of your naturalization application & all documents submitted to USCIS.
- Contact USCIS to reschedule if you can't appear for biometrics at the scheduled time.
- Change your address with USCIS if you move while your application is pending.
- Register for an English class or get a tutor if you struggle with English.
- Start studying for the Civics exam after you have filed your case.
- Use the study materials USCIS has online for the Civics and English tests.
- Consider filing Form N-648 to request a waiver of the English/Civics requirement if you have a medical disability that prevents you from learning or demonstrating your knowledge of English/Civics.
- Find out if you will give up citizenship in another country when you become a USC.
- Research whether any of your LPR children under the age of 18 who live with you will automatically obtain US citizenship when you take your citizenship oath.

## **DON'T...**

- File if you have been living for less than 3 months in your state or USCIS district.
- Study for the English test if you are over 50 and have been an LPR for 20 years OR if you are over 55 and have been an LPR for 15 years. It's not required.
- Study all 100 civics questions if you are 65 or older and have been an LPR for 20 years. USCIS has a much shorter list of civics questions that you must learn.

## **DON'T FILE WITHOUT FIRST SEEKING LEGAL ADVICE\*...**

- If you have ever been arrested or cited or detained for any offense other than a minor traffic violation.
- If you are a male who lived in the US between your 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> birthdays; you were required to register for Selective Service; and you did not do so.
- If you have made a trip outside the US in the last 5 years that is of 6 months or more in duration (or in the last 3 years if filing for naturalization based on being married to a US Citizen for 3 years).
- If you have not been present in the US for at least half of the last 5 years (or half of the last 3 years if filing for naturalization based on being married to a US Citizen for 3 years.)
- If you have a single trip outside the US that is of 1 year or more in duration and you did not use a Reentry Permit to reenter the US.
- If you have ever registered to vote or voted in a US election.
- If you have failed to file a tax return or you owe money to the government.
- If you do not provide adequate support for your children or are behind on child support payments.
- If you have been married to a US Citizen for 3 years; you have been a Permanent Resident for less than 5 years; and you are separated from your spouse.

*\*Some of these issues could cause a naturalization application to be denied.  
A few of these could even result in deportation proceedings.*