

Ways to Become a U.S. Citizen

Become a citizen at birth - Citizenship by being born in the United States

When a child is born on the United States of America's soil or one of its territories, he or she becomes an American citizen by birth. However, if you are a diplomat or a recognized government official from any non-American territory then your children will not be *American Citizens by Birth*, even if born on the American soil. American citizenship is for life, unless the person decides to relinquish it and give it up by making an affirmative action.

Become a citizen after going through the naturalization process

If you are not a born on American soil or on any of its territories then you won't be an American citizen by birth. However, your window of opportunity doesn't close there. You can still go through the complete *Naturalization Process* and become a citizen of the United States of America. In order to be eligible to go through the naturalization **process for becoming a citizen of the United States of America**, you need to be able to meet the following requirements –

1. Be 18 years or more of age when you are filling your F-400 form for applying for beginning the naturalization process
2. Have had a Green Card for at least a five years span
3. You should have lived in the same state or county of the United States for at least three months from which you are applying for the beginning of the naturalization process.
4. Should have lived and been physically present in the United States for a minimum of five years before filing the F-400.
5. Should have the ability to speak, read and write basic English
6. The person should also have a fundamental knowledge and grasp of the U.S. history and government.
7. Have a good moral character
8. Abide by the principles and ideals of the *U.S. Constitution*

Naturalization Process

Once you know that you are eligible for the naturalization process and hence are able to apply for becoming a full-fledged citizen of the United States of America, your naturalization process begins. So what is this Naturalization Process all about? Take a look at the naturalization process determines whether you are already an American citizen or are eligible to become one.



Then you submit the F-400 application form that begins the process. If required, you need undergo a complete biometrics examination like fingerprinting, etc, followed by an interview process where you are questioned regarding various aspects of American history and civics, Constitution, living and working in the United States. After you complete all of these steps you will receive the final decision on your F-400, letting you know whether you have successfully cleared all the steps and are now ready to become a citizen of the *United States of America* or not. Once you are cleared for the same, you receive a notice and have to take the Oath of Allegiance per the instructions in the notice. Then your rights and responsibilities are explained to you. Once all of this done, you are a citizen of the United States of America.

Naturalization Test

In order to become a citizen of the United States of America by naturalization, one needs to clear the naturalization test. A USCIS officer would conduct an interview with the applicant where the applicant would be asked about his F-400 form, the application filed for the naturalization and the applicant's background. Unless and until he or she has a waiver in place, they have to prove their proficiency in English and Civics by appearing for the English test.

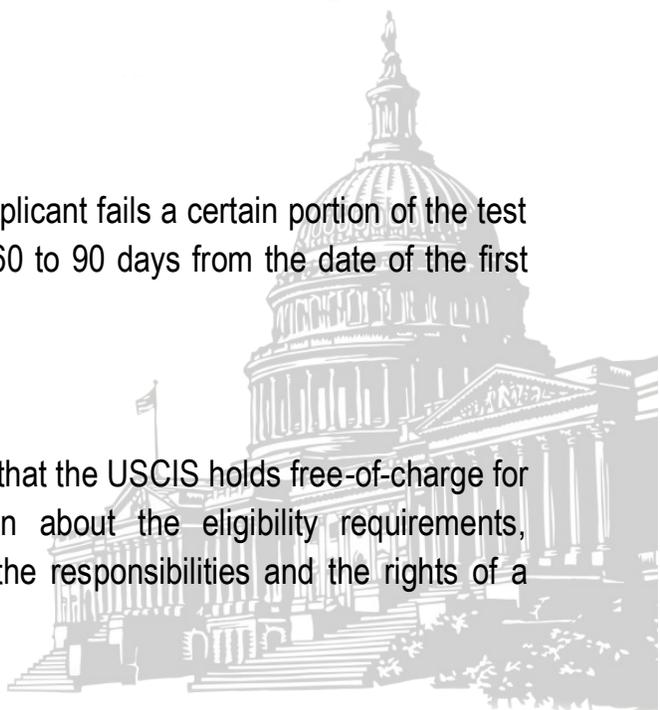
The English Test has Three Components, as Below –

1. **Speaking Test**
2. **Reading Test**
3. **Writing Test**
4. **Civics Test**

Each applicant gets two attempts to clear the tests. If an applicant fails a certain portion of the test during their first attempt, they can take a re-test between 60 to 90 days from the date of the first test.

Naturalization Information Sessions

The applicants can take help from the information sessions that the USCIS holds free-of-charge for the public at large regularly, where one gets to learn about the eligibility requirements, naturalization process, the naturalization test, as well as the responsibilities and the rights of a *Citizen of The United States*.



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