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With deep experience in Family Law, Corporate Law, Inheritance, and Property Law, FCB Law Office is a reliable partner in getting the legal results that you want. We cater to both foreign and local clients throughout the Philippines and have handled hundreds of cases, ranging from simple to complex. Anchored on Atty Francesco Britanico's vision of providing practical solutions within the framework of the Philippine legal system, we work on cases with the client's needs and concerns always at the forefront of our minds. FCB Law offers full corporate law services from incorporation to labor law guidance to support our clients in all of our corporate concerns. Read More FCB Law guides families through the complicated process of settling a family's estate so that property can be transferred to the heirs. Read More From Renaissance to Reconstitution, our lawyers handle all land related concerns and can guide you through document gathering or launching a case. Read More Atty Francesco Britanico founded FCB Law in 2018 after 8 years as a practicing lawyer with litigation experience in Family, Civil, Property, and Corporate Law. He added to his expertise in these areas while also expanding into Succession or Inheritance Law and Intellectual Property. He oversees 357 active cases and several corporate clients and is the managing partner of FCB Law. Aside from writing frequently on our website's blog, he has contributed to Rappler, Lexology, Dubai OFW, and Pilipino Express among other online and print publications. He maintains a YouTube channel and a LinkedIn account as he believes that a better understanding of Philippine laws can only happen with accurate and practical information. FCB Law Office has 6 major practice areas: Family Law, Corporate Law, Property Law, Succession and Inheritance, Civil Law and Intellectual Property. To get a formal quotation for an Amnulet, Recognition of Foreign Divorce, and other legal matters, Contact Us and provide details of the situation. We may ask for additional information for a better, more accurate quote. The costs vary depending on the type of case and the scope of work - some cases cost more than others. Different types of cases have longer timelines. For example, Recognition of Foreign Divorce takes 1.5 years from filing to Decision while Annulment may take longer due to the evidence needed. Additionally, a hostile opponent will further delay the case. For a more accurate timeline of your particular situation, contact us. Yes, we can provide a free, no-obligation assessment of your case or you can contact us by email. We will answer or refer you to the right agency or lawyer needed. Contact us to schedule a consultation with any one of FCB Law Office's Lawyers. Includes information on what your concern is so that we can direct you to the right person. Also, include information on your concern, so that the consultation is productive. FCB Law Office handles every aspect of corporate law, from Corporate Secretary work and Incorporation to Intra-corporate Disputes. We often also provide corporate counsel and address common concerns on work contracts, employer-employee concerns and compliance. FCB Law Office has a deep family law practice and covers Prenuptial Agreements, Recognition of Foreign Divorce, Annulment, Recognition of Foreign Adoption, Judicial Separation of Property, Child custody and support and the correction of PSA certificates. FCB Law offers Due Diligence services in support of a property transfer, replacements of Property Titles through Renaissance and Reconstitution cases, and Litigation services when there are property disputes. We draft wills, prove wills through probate or reprobate, handle Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate cases or litigate in case of family disputes. We can also advise on Estate Planning and are familiar with situations in which assets are in different countries. During my interaction with them, I found them to be professional, honest, and a pleasure to deal with. Their online consultation service provided information not only for me here in the Philippines but for my associates in the UK, Australia, and Malaysia which allowed for effective decision-making. My appreciation is extended to FCB Law Office, and I wish them every success in the future. Robert Milojevic I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the FCB Law staff for their exceptional assistance in addressing my questions. Their informative responses were articulated in a way that was easy to understand, which was particularly helpful for someone like me who has limited knowledge of the law. I also appreciate the promptness with which they addressed my inquiries. If only my coffee could come to me that fast! LOL! Thank you very much for your outstanding service! You all rock! Margie Torres Dear Atty. Franco Britanico and the whole FCB Law's Legal Team, I thank you very much for all your time and efforts. I greatly appreciate your patience and support. I got your DHL envelope containing relevant documents regarding my divorce recognition. I shall keep you posted in the near future in case I may need your legal services in another matter. Ms. Aquino of DC, Canada FCB law was very helpful with my case, they were a very big help guiding and helping me from start to finish. I highly recommend their law office, and will definitely use their legal services again if needed. Martin Brundt But they are professional and trustworthy. The case I encountered has been completed successfully all thanks to their continuous and legitimate support and to their expertise. I am glad I asked them for help. Highly Recommended. Shimizu Kouhei Sign up for the Family Tree Newsletter! Plus, you'll receive our 10 Essential Genealogy Research Forms PDF as a special thank you. Candidates for naturalization seated together in room, with hats in laps. (Library of Congress) Every year in courts across the United States, immigrants promise to renounce foreign allegiances and support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States. The Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America is the culmination of a path that begins years earlier—applicants must meet certain residency requirements, demonstrate they can read and write English, complete an interview, pass a civics test and file a series of forms with US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Our ancestors, while perhaps not having to supply quite as much documentation, also had to meet a set of requirements in order to become citizens. The naturalization documents filed in various courts throughout the process can help you track down family history clues. In this guide, we'll cover the historical citizenship process and how to find naturalization records. The process of naturalization generally involved declaring an intent to naturalize, waiting a specified amount of time, then filing a petition to naturalize. After a hearing, a judge would grant the successful applicant a certificate as proof of citizenship. Laws governing the waiting period and required length of US residency varied over time. The first naturalization law, passed in 1790, allowed free whites who'd lived in the United States for two years and the same state for one year apply for citizenship. In 1795, the residency requirement was increased to five years, and applicants had to give three years' notice of their intention to naturalize before they could become citizens. A 1798 law, repealed in 1802, increased this to 14 years' residence and five years' notice. In 1824, the waiting period after declaring an intent to naturalize was reduced to two years. Until 1922, women rarely applied for naturalization in their own right; instead, they became citizens when their husbands naturalized. After 1922, an alien woman who married a US citizen could skip the declaration of intention and file a petition for naturalization. But if an alien woman married an alien man, she'd have to start her naturalization proceedings with a declaration of intention; see the Summer 1998 issue of the National Archives' Prologue Magazine for more details on women and naturalization. Prior to 1906, immigrants could file for naturalization in any court at the local, county, state or federal level. He might go to the next county's court if it was closer, or file in a big city court before heading West. Some people even filed in criminal or marine court. A person could even begin the process in one court and finish it in another. A variety of forms were used for those naturalizations, so the information recorded varies from court to court and from year to year. In September 1906, the Basic Naturalization Act turned the naturalization process over to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. (The Bureau later became the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or INS, which in turn became the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, or USCIS.) This act standardized the process of becoming a citizen. After 1906, naturalization papers were supposed to be filed in certain federal courts, although some local courts continued to process naturalizations well beyond that date. In addition, from 1906 on, forms filled out before the applicant were standardized. For more about the history of naturalization, consult our timeline of US immigration laws. Each step in the citizenship process produces its own set of documents. The three created for most naturalized citizens are the declaration of intent, petition for naturalization, and certificate of naturalization. In some cases, other records also might have been generated. With this record, an alien declares his intention to become a US citizen and renounces his allegiance to foreign governments. Declarations of intention filed before Sept. 27, 1906, usually contain bare-bones information: applicant's name, applicant's country of birth or allegiance (but not the specific town) and the date of the application. Declarations of intention filed after Sept. 27, 1906, provide additional details, including more-specific birthplace port and date of arrival, physical description or (from 1929 on) photo names of a wife and any children naturalized along with the husband. The declaration of intention requirement ended in 1952, although immigrants still have the option to file a declaration if they want to. Tip: Immigrants who filed the declaration of intention sometimes didn't complete the citizenship process before the declaration expired. Thus, you may find multiple declarations for one person. Once a person declared his intention to become a citizen, met the residency requirement and waited the required period after filing, he could submit a naturalization petition to the court. He often filed in the court closest to where he lived. Starting in 1906, second papers typically include: petitioner's name (possibly his birth name) and any name changes; residence, occupation, birth date and place; prior citizenship; personal description; date of arrival in the United States and arrival and departure ports; date when US residence commenced and length of residence in the state; marital status (listing wife's name and date of birth, if married); names, dates and places of birth and residence of the applicant's children. After the applicant completed the citizenship requirements and signed an oath of allegiance (a record usually found along with the petition), a certificate of naturalization was issued to the immigrant. Most certificates contain the individual's name, certificate number, name of the court where he filed and date issued. The government didn't retain copies of these certificates, so the best place to find them is among family papers. These documents contain statements made during a naturalization hearing by witnesses in support of an applicant's petition. After 1906, courts began to require proof that an immigrant had legally entered the country. It was provided in the form of a certificate of arrival, which listed the port name, date and ship of the immigrant's arrival. A clerk at the immigrant's stated port of entry would locate his passenger list to verify the date and ship of arrival, or making a notation on the passenger list. The INS would then issue a certificate of arrival and send it to the naturalization court. Certificates of arrival were first issued under the Basic Naturalization Act of 1906; a 1929 law mandated them for every naturalizing immigrant. These certificates are generally included in a naturalization records file. In 1940, the Alien Registration Act required all noncitizens age 14 and older living in the United States to register. Each registered alien was assigned an Alien Registration Number, or A-number. The registration form, part of the immigrant's Alien File (A-file), requested a broad array of detail including all names used, date and place of birth, immigration date and ship, activities and organizations, criminal history and more. Not every immigrant filed for citizenship. The following sources can provide clues to whether an ancestor filed and when he achieved citizen status: US censuses in 1870 and 1900 to 1950 include notations about whether a person was naturalized. The year of naturalization is given in the 1920 census. Look at the citizenship columns for the following abbreviations: AL (alien), NA (naturalized), NR (not reported), PA (first papers filed), IN (declaration of intention) and Am Cit (American citizen born abroad). Examine your relative's entry on an immigration passenger list for annotations regarding nationality and citizenship. A number, perhaps with the note Naturalization Certificate Number, indicates a clerk checked the list to verify the person's legal arrival. If a naturalized citizen traveled abroad on business or to visit family, the passenger list documenting his return would have a notation such as USC (for US citizen), Nat, Nat/z or Naturalized. For more information on passenger list notations, see JewishGen. Finally, a naturalized citizen who applied for a passport would note his year of naturalization. Look for passport records on Ancestry.com, Fold3 and FamilySearch. After 1906, an immigrant had to be a citizen in order to vote. Voting records vary in availability and location. Check county or city repositories, local libraries, and historical and genealogical societies. Immigrants had to file at least a declaration of intention before they could apply for the Homestead Act of 1862. At the end of the five-year term, when the immigrant had to secure the patented land, he had to become a citizen. The fore, homestead applications may contain copies of naturalization records. You can obtain these files from the National Archives, the appropriate state's Bureau of Land Management office or from the county courthouse. If your ancestor was successful in obtaining the homestead, finding the land patent should make it easier to get the homestead application records. After 1862, aliens who served in the US Army and who were honorably discharged could apply for citizenship on an abbreviated timeline. This didn't guarantee citizenship, however. The military service record isn't likely to contain the naturalization record, but if the veteran applied for a pension, you may locate documentation there. WWI draft records indicated naturalization status as well; find digitized draft cards on Ancestry.com, Fold3 and FamilySearch. Finding your ancestor's naturalization records has become easier with the internet age. You should have a good idea of when your ancestor filed and where he lived at the time, because record collections are largely organized geographically, and this information will help you identify the right record. But you're spared needing to know which court he used, visit in person or obtain microfilm (though we'll cover how to do the latter, too). Here's how you can find the records. Start by searching naturalization collections on websites including subscription-based Ancestry.com and Fold3 (look for the Non Military Records collection), and the free FamilySearch. Your library or local FamilySearch Center may offer access to subscription collections, and/or you can use Ancestry.com's free World Archives Project index to "U.S., Naturalization Records, 1840-1957." You'll need to choose a collection based on where your ancestor lived. Search these sites for a name, then narrow your search as needed by place, year and collection. An immigrant may be naturalized under his birth name, rather than an Americanized name used in later records. On FamilySearch, online collections include mostly naturalization filings in federal courts and state superior courts. If you find a result in an index-only collection—one without an attached image of the naturalization document—use the source information provided in the index entry to seek a copy of the record on microfilm or by mail. If your ancestor was naturalized before 1906 in a county court, you still might find records among FamilySearch's digitized court records. Many of these collections aren't indexed, so you can't search by name. Instead, go to the Historical Records Collection page and use the filters to choose United States of America, then the state. Look for court records from your ancestor's county in the collection list, sorted by record type. Ideally, there'll be a naturalization index book you can search to find the volume and page number with the record you need. Some county courts, libraries and genealogical societies have put naturalization records or indexes online, such as Cook County, Ill., (home to Chicago) and Hamilton County, Ohio (home to Cincinnati). Try a web search for your ancestral county, state and the words naturalization records genealogy. If you have success in an index, be sure to look for copies of the records. For a state-by-state overview of online naturalization records, check Joe Beine's Online Searchable Naturalization Records and Indexes. If your online search doesn't pan out, you'll need to check microfilmed records for the court where you think your ancestor filed for naturalization, visit the courthouse or send a written request. County courts and state supreme courts are the most common locations for naturalization filings, but they also could have been filed at a circuit, district, probate or common pleas court. The Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources, part of Ancestry.com's research wiki, offers summaries of court records available each state. Before you visit a courthouse, check the website or call ahead to ask about locations of historical records and research rules. Otherwise, look for microfilmed court records in the FamilySearch online catalog. Declarations of intention and naturalization petitions filed in federal district courts before and after 1906 are on microfilm in the National Archives research facility covering the area of filing and through FamilySearch. Naturalization records after 1906 are available online and on microfilm with the above resources, but you also can order copies through the USCIS Genealogy Service. The USCIS is the only source for alien registration records and naturalization case files (C-Files). You'll first request an index lookup for the file number(s) needed, then order copies of the file(s). This is a fee-based service (whether or not a record is found) and the wait is 90 days or longer. So first try the resources mentioned above if possible. If you're looking for this immigrant's name at birth, place of birth or arrival date, you might find what you need in his naturalization records. Although earlier records might provide only the country of birth, post-1906 records usually provide enough detail to help you find passenger records and launch your research in your ancestral homeland. Even early records name witnesses who swore to your ancestor's good character and legal arrival on US shores. In later records, witnesses are named on the immigrant's oath of allegiance. Always note the names of these witnesses, because they may be family members or at least give you a picture of your ancestor's social circle. Your ancestors also may show up as witnesses on naturalization applications of their relatives, friends, neighbors or co-workers. Finally, post-1906 records name the applicant's immediate family and sometimes give their addresses, helping with your collateral research efforts. Records before that rarely name family, even when a man's wife and children became citizens by virtue of his application. Immigrants across the United States used this standard form to declare their intention to become citizens. Details in post-1906 declarations usually include a specific place of birth and a physical description. The description of Frederick's injury may help identify him in other records. A married applicant provided the spouse's name and birthplace. In 1927, immigrants intending to naturalize had to wait at least two years after filing a declaration of intention to file a petition for naturalization. The top section of this 1901 document records the name of the applicant, Patrick Duffy, his military service and the filing date. Beginning in 1862 for the Army and 1894 for the Navy and Marines, those honorably discharged from military service could skip the declaration of intention and fulfill a residency requirement of just one year. In this section, the commissioner testifies that he has examined the applicant and witness, and found the applicant has satisfied the requirements of citizenship. A witness' address, signature and testimony on his familiarity with the applicant's moral character and fulfillment of the residency requirement are included. Personal information is limited in petitions filed before Sept. 27, 1906, but this one provides the name and address of the applicant, date and country of his birth, date and port of arrival, and US military enlistment and discharge dates are listed. This can help you find the right Patrick Duffy in passenger lists. Versions of this article appeared in the September 2015 and November 2023 issues of Family Tree Magazine. Last updated: September 2024 Before your naturalization interview, study for the English and civics test by using our free resources to help you prepare. English Test Overview For the English portion of the naturalization test you must demonstrate an understanding of the English language, including the ability to read, write, and speak basic English. Your ability to speak and understand English will be determined by a USCIS officer during your eligibility interview on Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. For the reading test, you must read out loud one out of three sentences correctly to demonstrate an ability to read in English. For the writing test, you must write one out of three sentences correctly to demonstrate an ability to write in English. Civics Test (2008 Version) The civics portion of the naturalization test is an oral test. The USCIS officer will ask you up to 10 questions from the list of 100 civics test questions. You must answer 6 questions correctly to pass the civics test. For more information, refer to the USCIS Policy Manual Volume 12, Part E, English and Civics Testing and Exceptions, Chapter 2, English and Civics Testing 65/20 Special Consideration If you are 65 years old or older and have been living in the United States as a lawful permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the 20 questions that have been marked with an asterisk (*). You may also take the naturalization test in the language of your choice. For more information, see exceptions and accommodations or the USCIS Policy Manual Citizenship and Naturalization Guidance. Note: On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. You must answer the question with the name of the official serving at the time of your naturalization interview. For the answers to these specific questions, please visit the Civics Test Updates page. Sign up to receive Citizenship Resource Center email updates. Search below for civics flash cards, interactive practice tests, study booklets, videos and more. You may purchase USCIS products and publications from the U.S. Government Bookstore. Understanding the Process of Becoming a U.S. Citizen In this section, you will find a general description of the naturalization application process. Before you begin, be sure that you meet all eligibility requirements and check if you qualify for any exceptions and accommodations. USCIS has also developed responses to commonly asked questions about citizenship and the naturalization process. What to do: If you are not a U.S. citizen by birth, or you did not acquire or derive U.S. citizenship from your parent(s) automatically after birth, go to the next step. This form is available in file format. Start by creating your free online account. What to do: Read the instructions to complete Form N-400. Collect the necessary documents to demonstrate your eligibility for naturalization. If you reside outside the United States, get 2 passport-style photos taken. Use the document checklist to make sure you collect all the required documents. What to do: If you need to take biometrics, USCIS will send you an appointment notice that includes your biometrics appointment date, time, and location. Arrive at the designated location at the scheduled time. Have your biometrics taken. Once all the preliminary processes on your case are complete, USCIS will schedule an interview with you to complete the naturalization process. You must report to the USCIS office at the date and time on your appointment notice. Please bring the appointment notice with you. USCIS will mail a notice of decision to you. If you filed your N-400 online, you can also access the electronic notice in your account. Granted - USCIS may approve your Form N-400 if the evidence in your record establishes that you are eligible for naturalization. Continued - USCIS may continue your application if you need to provide additional evidence/documentation, fail to provide USCIS the correct documents, or fail the English and/or civics test the first time. Denied - USCIS will deny your Form N-400 if the evidence in your record establishes you are not eligible for naturalization. What to expect: If USCIS approved your Form N-400 in step 7, you may be able to participate in a naturalization ceremony on the same day as your interview. If a same day naturalization ceremony is unavailable, USCIS will mail you a notification with the date, time, and location of your scheduled ceremony. If you filed your N-400 online, you can also access the electronic notice in your application. You are not a U.S. citizen until you take the Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony. What to do: Complete the questionnaire on Form N-445, Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony. Report your naturalization ceremony and check in with USCIS. A USCIS officer will review your responses to Form N-445. Turn in your Permanent Resident Card (Green Card). Take the Oath of Allegiance to become a U.S. citizen. Receive your Certificate of Naturalization, review it, and notify USCIS of any errors you see on your certificate before leaving the ceremony site. Citizenship is the common thread that connects all fields. Check out this list of some of the most important rights and responsibilities that all citizens—both Americans by birth and by choice—should exercise, honor, and respect. If you are applying for Norwegian citizenship, and are between 18 and 67 years of age, you are required to pass the citizenship test or the social studies test in Norwegian. If you are between 18 and 67 years old, you must pass the test before you hand in your application documents to the police. Which tests meet the requirement? Have you already passed the test? If you have already taken such a test when you participated in training in Norwegian language and social studies, you do not need to take it again. Please note! You must have taken the test in Norwegian. If you have only taken the social studies test in your own language, you must take it again in Norwegian. If you are not sure if you have taken such a test, please contact the municipality (kommune) where you took the tests. Do you wish to take the test now? If you have not already taken such a test, you must take it now. On the website of Skills Norway (Kompetnase Norge), you will find information about the social studies test (external website) and information about the citizenship test (external website) If you have questions about the tests, you must contact Skills Norway. Is it possible to be granted an exemption from such a test? You may request an exemption from the test requirement if you are in one of these situations: You have completed social studies in lower or upper secondary school and received a final assessment grade or examination grade in the subject (minimum grade 2). You have completed social studies in upper secondary education and received a half-year assessment, final assessment grade or examination grade (minimum grade 2). You have completed Module 1 in modular education and vocational training (modulstrukturert fag- og yrkesoppl ring (MFY)) and received a certificate of competence showing that the module has been approved. You have studied social sciences that provide knowledge about Norway at the university or college university level, corresponding to a minimum of 10 credits. These studies must cover the topics included in the Curriculum in Social Studies for Adult Immigrants (pdf, 473 kB), which are the following: 1. Education, competence and working life. 2. Family, health and everyday life. 63. Norway before and now. You must hand in an academic transcript and course description of the study you have completed. Examples of studies that qualify for this exemption include the social studies course, Norwegian Life and Society, at UIO or the one-year programme in Norwegian language and culture offered at numerous universities and university colleges. You have completed studies in Norwegian or S mi at the university or university college level in Norway. You must document that you have earned credits from studies in Norwegian or S mi. You are unable to pass the test for reasons related to health or other weighty considerations or personal circumstances. More information about relevant grounds for exemption is available here. Your municipality has granted you an exemption from compulsory Norwegian social studies training and/or the Norwegian social studies test. If you have used the registration scheme for EU/EEA nationals or were granted a first residence permit that forms the basis for a permanent residence permit prior to 1 September 2005, then you are not covered by the Introduction Act or the Integration Act and are not eligible for exemption. The U.S. citizenship test is also known as the naturalization interview or naturalization test. The immigration officer will ask different questions throughout parts of the interview: Check-in Oath N-400 review English test Civics test If you do not understand a question, you can always ask the officer to repeat or rephrase the question and say it in a different way. Responding clearly and correctly to the questions is important. Remember that you are considering changing your name of Complete and explain the questions. How do you feel about the English test? If you are not confident, you can ask for a translator. When you are announced, The immigration officer will greet you and direct you to their office. The officer will begin to test your English from this point on. The officer may ask questions such as: How do you feel? Did you have any trouble getting here? How was the traffic? The officer will ask you to take an oath, to tell the truth during your interview. An oath is a serious promise. They may ask you questions such as: Do you understand what an oath is? Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? Once you are under oath, the officer will ask questions about your application. The questions an officer asks and the order they ask them may be different for each person. The officer will review your citizenship application with you to: Make sure the information is correct Check for changes to your application Confirm that you understand a question Test your English language skills (You may be asked questions such as: Do you understand this question? What is your current home address? Is your mother or father a U.S. citizen? Are you married, divorced, single, or widowed now? Have you traveled abroad recently? Have you ever been a part of any organizations? Have you ever been convicted of a crime or offense? Have you ever been in jail or prison? Have you ever lived in any U.S. government officials? Have you ever been denied entry to the U.S.? Have you ever been deported from the U.S.? Are you willing to take the oath of allegiance? The officer will usually ask questions in a way that is different than how they are worded in the application to make sure you have not just memorized the form. Officers are not allowed to ask you for a definition of a word or phrase. It is very important that you understand each question and review your application before your interview. Learn the meanings of words in Form N-400 to answer questions correctly and truthfully. If you have any changes since filing your application, you will have to confirm them on a tablet and sign your name. You will also sign to agree to take the Oath of Allegiance on the day of your naturalization ceremony. The English test checks your reading, writing, and speaking skills. You must show that you know basic English to qualify for citizenship. Your English is being tested throughout the interview. (In this section, the officer tests your ability to speak and understand English. The officer will test you from the point they greet you and as they review your application.) You may be asked questions such as: Do you understand why you are here today? Why do you want to become a U.S. citizen? In this section, the officer asks you to read 3 sentences out loud in English. The sentences will be on a tablet and are from the list of civics questions. You must read 1 sentence correctly to pass. You may be asked to read sentences such as: George Washington was the first president. Washington DC is the capital of the United States. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. You will pass the reading section if you: Read one sentence without long pauses. Read all the words in the sentence. Leave out short words or pronounce words incorrectly but only if it does not change the meaning of the sentence. You will fail the reading section if you: Do not read the sentence. Do not read a word or say another word instead. Pause for a long time while reading the sentence. Pronounce words incorrectly that change the meaning of the sentence. In this section, the officer asks you to write 3 sentences in English. You will have to use a stylus pen on a tablet. These sentences are from the list of civics questions. You must write 1 sentence correctly to pass. You may be asked to write sentences such as: U.S. citizens have the right to vote. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is on January 16. Congress makes federal laws. You will pass the writing section if you: Write a sentence with the same meaning as the sentence the officer read aloud. Use numbers either spelled out or written as digits. Have some grammatical, spelling, or capitalization errors but only if it does not change the meaning of the sentence. Leave out short words but only if it does not change the meaning of the sentence. You will fail the writing section if you: Write nothing or only one or two words. Write a sentence that is not readable. Write a different sentence or words. Write a sentence that means something different than what was read to you. Use an abbreviation for a word. The civics test checks your understanding of the U.S. government and history. Listen to audio while reading to help with your English skills for this portion of the test. USAHello also offers a free online class to help you prepare for the civics portion of the test. You can take this class in English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Swahili, and Vietnamese. Some people do not have to take the English test or can take a simpler version of the civics test. Learn if you qualify for an exemption or accommodation. The information on this page comes from USCIS, USA.gov, and other trusted sources. We aim to offer easy to understand information that is updated regularly. This information is not legal advice. If USCIS approves your Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, we will schedule you to take the Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony. The naturalization ceremony is the culmination of the naturalization process. Below are ceremony videos that may be played at most naturalization ceremonies to help welcome you as America's newest citizens. "Faces of America" (video) This four-minute video illustrates our nation's immigration history by featuring historical images and highlighting naturalization ceremonies throughout our country. The video also includes inspirational quotes from proud naturalized citizens. "America the Beautiful" (video) This picturesque video features the patriotic song, "America the Beautiful," written by Katharine Lee Bates in 1893, along with various scenes of naturalization ceremonies and American landscapes from sea to shining sea. "The Star-Spangled Banner" (video) Beginning early in our nation's history, citizens have used songs, poems, and symbols to express the ideals and values of the United States. "The Star-Spangled Banner" is the national anthem of the United States. It was written by Francis Scott Key after a critical battle in the War of 1812. In a judicial ceremony, the court administers the Oath of Allegiance. In an administrative ceremony, USCIS administers the Oath of Allegiance. You may receive supplemental information from USCIS that provides detailed instructions for your ceremony. Please pay close attention to this information. Do not miss the Oath of Allegiance. You may be able to participate in a naturalization ceremony on the same day as your interview. If a ceremony is unavailable, we will mail you a notice with the date, time, and location of your scheduled naturalization ceremony on Form N-445, Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony. If you cannot attend your scheduled naturalization ceremony, return the notice, Form N-445, Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony, to your local USCIS office, along with a letter requesting a new date and explaining why you cannot attend the scheduled naturalization ceremony. Failing to appear more than once for your naturalization ceremony may lead to a denial of your application. 2. Check in at the Ceremony Once you arrive at the ceremony, check in with USCIS. A USCIS officer will review your responses to the questionnaire, Form N-445, Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony. Please complete your responses to the questionnaire before you arrive. To see what items are prohibited on federal properties, you can check the Federal Protective Service's frequently asked questions web page. 3. Return your Permanent Resident Card You must return your Permanent Resident Card to USCIS when you check in for your naturalization ceremony. This requirement is waived if you provided proof during the naturalization interview that the card has been lost and you have attempted to recover it, or if, because of your military service, you were never granted permanent residence. You will no longer need your Permanent Resident Card because you will receive your Certificate of Naturalization after you take the Oath of Allegiance. 4. Take the Oath of Allegiance You are not a U.S. citizen until you take the Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony. You will receive your Certificate of Naturalization after taking the Oath of Allegiance. 5. Receive Certificate of Naturalization Once you become a U.S. citizen, you have access to additional benefits and services. Please see www.uscis.gov/new-us-citizens for additional information. During the ceremony, you will be provided with additional information, and representatives for the different services may be available to assist, including: Apply for a U.S. Passport/Passport Card You will get an application for a U.S. passport at your naturalization ceremony in the U.S. Citizenship Welcome Packet. It is also available at most U.S. post offices or online at travel.state.gov. You should allow sufficient time between the naturalization ceremony and any planned travel to receive your passport. Register to Vote You will receive a voter registration application at your naturalization ceremony after you take the Oath of Allegiance. You may register to vote at locations in your community, which may include post offices, motor vehicle offices, county boards of election, and offices of your state Secretary of State. At administrative naturalization ceremonies, voter registration applications may be distributed by a state or local government election official, a member of a non-governmental organization, or a USCIS official. If a non-governmental organization assists you in registering to vote at a USCIS naturalization ceremony, that organization may collect and submit your form to the appropriate election official, but it is not permitted to retain any of your personal information. Please notify your local USCIS office if you believe that an organization has retained and used your personal information after assisting you with a voter registration application at a USCIS naturalization ceremony. Update your Social Security Record If you're like many people, you know that part of the naturalization process is taking the citizenship test. But what's on the test, how hard is it, and what happens if you fail? This guide explains everything you need to know about the U.S. citizenship test (and what happens after you take it). Nearly everyone who wants to become a naturalized U.S. citizen must take the citizenship test. There are a few exceptions, but for the most part, you can expect to take the test during your naturalization interview. Sometimes called the naturalization test, the U.S. citizenship test is a test that just about everyone who wants to become a United States citizen must take. The test covers your knowledge of civics and the English language, and it involves speaking, reading and writing. Though many people expect to sit at a desk, pull out a pencil and begin testing, that's not exactly how this test works. Instead, it's a built-in part of your naturalization interview. The English part of the U.S. citizenship test involves: Speaking. During your interview, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer who interviews you will evaluate how well you speak and understand English. Reading. The USCIS official interviewing you will ask you to read a sentence written in English. You must read one out of three sentences correctly to show the USCIS official that your English reading skills are sufficient. Writing. The USCIS official will ask you to write a sentence to show that you can write in English. You must write one of three sentences correctly. Note: If you read and write the first sentence correctly, you won't have to read or write the other two. The civics portion of the citizenship test covers a variety of questions on U.S. history and how the government works. You may also be asked questions about rights, responsibilities and other aspects of United States citizenship. You don't have to guess at what questions you'll face during your immigration interview and citizenship test period in fact, USCIS has a complete list of the questions that an immigration officer may ask you on its website. (It provides the answers, too, which makes studying a lot easier!) You can access the list here, but here's a sampling of some of the questions USCIS may ask you: What is the supreme law of the land? (The Constitution.) How many amendments does the Constitution have? (Answer: 27.) Name one branch or part of the government. (Answer: Congress, President, the courts, the legislative branch, the executive branch or the judicial branch.) What is the highest court in the United States? (Answer: The Supreme Court.) What is the capital of your state? (The capital of New York is Albany, but your answer may vary based on where you live.) Name one right only for United States citizens? (Answer: To vote in a federal election or to run for federal office.) When was the Declaration of Independence adopted? (Answer: July 4, 1776.) The complete list of possible questions is available on USCIS's website. You may print them and use them as a study guide. USCIS officials won't ask you test questions that aren't on that list. (But remember, you take the test as part of your naturalization interview. That means the USCIS officer conducting your interview will most likely ask you questions about your application. They may also ask you questions on other topics that aren't part of the citizenship test.) The USCIS official conducting your citizenship will ask you up to ten questions. You must get six of them right. Typically, as soon as you get six correct answers, the questions stop - there's no need to keep asking because you only need six to pass. It's okay if the USCIS officer needs to ask you all ten questions. Don't stress yourself out over it that happens to you - you're allowed to get four of the questions wrong. If you fail either part of the citizenship test - the English or civics portion - it's not the end of the world. You can retake the failed portions. However, you can only fail the test twice. If you fail twice, USCIS will deny your naturalization application. That means you need to reapply for naturalization, starting at square one. Though most people are required to take the citizenship test, some people are exempt. That means they don't have to take the test (or a part of the test) at all. Other people have exceptions, such as being allowed to use an interpreter. You don't have to take the English part of the citizenship test if: You're age 50 or older at the time you file your naturalization application and you've continuously lived in the U.S. with a green card for 20 years or more. This is sometimes called the 50/20 exception. You are 55 or older at the time you file your naturalization application and you've continuously lived in the U.S. with a green card for 15 years or more. This is sometimes called the 55/15 exception. Even if you qualify for one of these exceptions, you still have to take the civics portion of the test. But if you're not too confident in your English-language skills, it's okay. You may take the test in your native language, provided that you bring an interpreter with you to your interview. Your interpreter must be fluent in your native language and in English. Note: If you're age 65 or older at the time you file your application, and if you've been a green card-holder for at least 20 years, you get special consideration on the civics part of the test. You're also allowed to bring a qualified interpreter with you to your interview. This is sometimes called the 65/20 exemption. If you can't take the English or civics portion of the U.S. citizenship test because you have a medical disability, USCIS can give you an exception. Your doctor needs to fill out a specific form that explains why you can't take the test. After your doctor completes the form, your attorney will file it with your naturalization application. Note: Only a licensed medical or osteopathic doctor, or a licensed clinical psychologist, can fill out the disability exception form. The U.S. government requires USCIS to provide accommodations or modifications to people with disabilities. If you have a disability that makes it difficult for you to take on or both portions of the citizenship test (or to otherwise participate in the naturalization process), USCIS can make adjustments for you. You should discuss these issues with your attorney so that she can list them in the appropriate place on your naturalization application. Exceptions or Exemptions English/Civics Age 50 or older, if you have resided in the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident (green card-holder) for at least 20 years at the time you file your application/You are exempt from this part of the test. However, you may take it in your language of choice using an interpreter. Age 55 or older, if you have resided in the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident (green card-holder) for at least 15 years at the time you file your application/You are exempt from this part of the test. However, you may take it in your language of choice using an interpreter. Age 65 or older, if you have resided in the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident (green card-holder) for at least 20 years at the time you file your application/You are exempt from this part of the test, but USCIS officers are authorized to administer specially designated test forms. You may take this part of the test in your language of choice using an interpreter. Medical disabilities/You may be exempt from this part of the test, or USCIS may have to provide special accommodations so you can take it. The U.S. citizenship test is only part of your naturalization interview. The USCIS official conducting your interview will most likely talk to you about your application and ask you other questions that aren't related to the test. Some of the questions may involve how attached you are to the principles and ideals in the U.S. Constitution, where you live and the answers you provided on your naturalization application. The naturalization interview is nearly your last stop on the path to citizenship. After you complete your interview and pass your citizenship test, USCIS will schedule your Oath of Allegiance. You must fill out Form N-445 before you show up to take the oath. This form contains questions about whether your circumstances have changed (such as whether you've been married or divorced, traveled outside the U.S., or been arrested). Most people take the Oath of Allegiance during a ceremony at the same USCIS field office where they interviewed. Before that ceremony takes place, USCIS will collect your green card, then an official will review your answers on Form N-445. Then, you'll take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States and receive your naturalization certificate. At that point, you're officially a U.S. citizen, and you don't have to take any more tests or file any more applications. You can simply start enjoying the new rights and responsibilities that come with U.S. citizenship. If you need to talk to an immigration attorney about getting naturalized citizenship in the United States, we may be able to help you. Call our office at 914-481-8822 to schedule a consultation with an experienced, knowledgeable immigration attorney who can answer your questions and give you the legal advice you need. There are exceptions and modifications to the naturalization requirements that are available to those who qualify. USCIS also provides accommodations for individuals with disabilities. For more information visit the USCIS Policy Manual Citizenship and Naturalization Guidance. You are exempt from the English language requirement, but are still required to take the civics test if you are: Age 50 or older at the time of filing for naturalization and have lived as a permanent resident in the United States for 20 years (commonly referred to as the "50/20" exception). OR Age 55 or older at the time of filing for naturalization and have lived as a permanent resident in the United States for 15 years (commonly referred to as the "55/15" exception). Note: Even if you qualify for the "50/20" or "55/15" English language exceptions listed above, you must still take the civics test. You will be permitted to take the civics test in your native language. If you take the test in your native language, you must bring an interpreter with you to your interview. Your interpreter must be fluent in both English and your native language. If you are age 65 or older and have been a permanent resident for at least 20 years at the time of filing for naturalization, you will be given special consideration regarding the civics requirement. For more information, see the USCIS Policy Manual Citizenship and Naturalization Guidance.