



# Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services

---

**1106 N. El Dorado St.  
Stockton, CA 95202  
(209) 444-5910**

8:30AM-4:30PM



Presented by:

---

○ **Alexandra Gonzalez**

BIA Accredited Representative

(Board of Immigration Appeals Accredited Representative)

# NATURALIZATION

---

## NATURALIZATION

Process by which a Lawful  
Permanent  
Resident (green card holder)  
becomes a Citizen of the  
United States of America.



# NATURALIZATION REQUIREMENTS

---

- Be a Lawful Permanent Resident for 5 years or 3 years if married to a US Citizen.
- Be at least 18 years old at the time of application.
- Have Good Moral Character.
- Physically present in the USA for at least 30 months of the last 5 years or 18 months if applying after 3 years.
- Be able to speak, understand, read and write in English and able to pass the US Government and Civic test.
- Believe in the principles of the U.S. Constitution and be able to take the Oath of Allegiance (loyalty) to the USA (oath may be modified due to religious or moral exceptions).
- Lived in California (or state in which you are applying in) for the last 3 months.



## APPLICANT MUST HAVE ***GOOD MORAL CHARACTER***

---

- Restrain from committing any crime or offense such as; felony, misdemeanor or traffic offenses (Domestic violence, Drugs, DUI, Fraud, etc).
- Must have paid Federal/State taxes, if due.
- Must have paid Child Support (If applicable).
- Must not have any addictions (Drugs, Alcohol, Prostitution, Illegal gambling).
- Must have not claimed to be a U.S. Citizen or have voted/ or registered to vote.



# THE PERSON MUST BE ABLE TO SPEAK, WRITE AND READ IN ENGLISH

---

- Able to speak / understand English (maintain a conversation with a USCIS officer).
- Know how to write simple sentences in English.
- Know how to read simple sentences in English.

# EXCEPTIONS TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

*Applicant may take test in their own language*

---

- 55/15 RULE: The applicant is 55 years old and has been a LPR for 15 years. (100 questions in own language).
- 50/20 RULE: The applicant is 50 years old and has been a LPR for 20 years. (100 questions in own language).
- 65/20 RULE: The applicant is 65 years old and has been a resident for 20 years. (Modified: 20 questions in own language).

# SELECTIVE SERVICE

---

- Men living in the US (except in non-immigrant status) between the ages of 18-26 must have registered for Selective Service, otherwise the application could be denied.
- Only for men born after 1960.
- Men who became residents through the Amnesty (SAW/S26) Program in the 1980's do not need to register.
- Men who entered with a non-immigrant visa do not need to register.





# MEDICAL WAIVER (*Form N-648*)

---

- There is a medical waiver for an applicant who has a mental / physical disability or illness which prevents him/her from learning and retaining English.
- The applicant may be excused from taking the English or U.S Government and Civic Test.
- Form must be completed by the applicant's medical doctor.
- Other special accommodations may also be made (Citizenship interview at home).

# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

---

- 1<sup>ST</sup>. The applicant must complete the N-400 Application form (20 pgs in length). Application must be filled out in English. Applicant must supporting evidence like LPR or name change and filing fee or \$640 + \$85 fingerprint fee (for ages 18-74) or Fee Waiver forms I-942 or I-912.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. The applicant must attend a fingerprints appointment scheduled by USCIS. The applicant must bring their LPR Card, California driver license or ID and fingerprint appointment notice.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. The person must attend an interview appointment in a local district office (close by are Sacramento / Fresno). The applicant must be able to understand and respond to an immigration officer's questions. The officer will ask 10 U.S. government, civics and history questions and personal questions contained in the application. If the applicant does not pass the test, she/he will receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> (and last) chance interview appointment by mail.
- 4<sup>th</sup>. If the applicant passes the interview they must attend an Oath of Allegiance ceremony. At this ceremony the applicant will receive their US Citizenship certificate and becomes a U.S. citizen.

# FEE WAIVER

*If filing fee can not be afforded*

---

- There is a full and partial Fee Waiver form available for low income (150% - 200% poverty line).
- Applicants who qualify, won't need to pay the \$725 dollars.
- Full Fee Waiver form I-912.
- Partial Fee Waiver form I-942.



# NATURALIZATION ADVANTAGES

---

- US Citizenship is forever.
- Citizens will be able to vote in all elections.
- Citizens will be able to live outside of the USA without physical residence restrictions.
- Citizens can apply for Government Jobs.
- Citizens can run for Public Office.
- Citizens can petition for siblings, parents and married children.
- Citizens can travel to several countries without having to apply for a visitors visa.
- Citizens will have double nationality. (some countries have exceptions).



# Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services

---

**Thank you  
for  
coming!**

**Main Office (209) 444-5910  
agonzalez@ccstockton.org**