



Checklist for Filing Your N-400 Form

You have your green card and are ready to start the US Citizenship application process. When applying, you will need to complete USCIS Form N-400 and provide a list of required documents with your form. Every person's immigration story is unique. Your individual situation dictates which forms, fees and documents you will need to include with your citizenship application. We have created a checklist to help you gather and track the information you need to provide.

Decide Whether to Apply Online or by Mail

[Form N-400](#) is the correct form to apply for naturalization. You'll need to decide whether to apply online or by mail. It's also a good time to consider if you'll hire an attorney or work with a [nonprofit organization](#) to help you prepare your application.

- If you decide to file on your own, read the [instructions for Form-N400 carefully](#). Then, consider whether to seek free or low-cost resources to help you with your filing.
- If you're filing online, you will need to [set up a USCIS account](#) first. Be sure to [read these helpful USCIS tips](#) for filing online. Note that you can only file online if paying the application fee. If you are applying for a fee waiver or reduction, you must file by mail.

Submit Proof of Green Card

All applicants must submit proof of legal permanent residency. Be sure to include a copy of your green card, both the front and back, with your application.

Decide if You Wish to Request Representation

You may benefit from having a representative help you manage your application and go with you to the naturalization interview. A representative can be an attorney or other person accredited by immigration who meets [USCIS qualifications](#).

- If you decide to name a representative, you must file [Form G-28](#) *with* your Form N- 400.

Be Sure Past Unlawful Activity Doesn't Make You Ineligible

Any past unlawful activity will be known to USCIS. If you have any past criminal history, even if minor, it is important for you to consult with an attorney. An immigration attorney can let you know whether you are still eligible to apply. You must acknowledge any interaction with police or the criminal justice system on your application. Non-disclosure can lead to denial of your application and, in some cases, can even lead to deportation proceedings. We encourage you to seek the help of an immigration attorney or nonprofit provider for individual advice.

Calculate and Include Fee Payment

You want to pay close attention to payment processing details. First and foremost, make sure you understand **your cost to apply**. Your fees may be reduced or eliminated if you qualify for a fee waiver or reduction, or you may be eligible for an age or military exemption. It's important to include the [accurate and exact fee required for your circumstances](#). Otherwise, your application might be returned or rejected for that reason alone. We don't want this to happen to you! We encourage you to read the USCIS fee payment guide.

The ways that you can pay your fee depends on whether you filed your application online or by mail. There is one payment option that requires an additional form:

- If you are sending your application by mail and want to pay by credit card, you will need to fill out [Form G-1450](#) and send it in *with* your N-400.

Determine if Your Situation Requires Additional Documentation

Additional items may need to be submitted *with* Form N-400 depending on your personal status and situation.

- If you are **currently or previously married**: Provide a copy of your current marriage certificate, divorce, annulment decree or death certificate of former spouse.
- If you have **current or prior US military service**: Include a copy of Form N-426 or DD-214.
- If you have a **qualifying medical condition** and are requesting an exemption from English and civics tests: Complete [Form N-648](#) and submit with supporting documents.
- If you are **requesting a waiver** of application and biometrics fee: Complete [Form I-912](#) and submit with required documents.
- If you are **seeking a fee reduction**: Complete [Form I-942](#) and submit proof of annual household income.

If you fall into any of these categories, read the [USCIS instruction sheet](#) carefully for specific details about the documents you need to provide. The more items that apply to you that you can check off the list above, the closer you will be to successfully filing your application. Soon you will be on the road to achieving your goal of citizenship!