



Immigration Attorneys — Temple Terrace, FL

Naturalization (Form N-400)

A Plain-Language Document Checklist

If you're applying to become a U.S. citizen through naturalization, USCIS will ask for documents proving your eligibility — how long you've been a resident, your continuous residence, and your good moral character. This checklist walks you through what you'll typically need to gather, in plain English.

This is general information, not legal advice. Your case may need more (or fewer) documents depending on your situation — that's exactly what a consultation is for.

Identity & Residency Documents

- ☐ Permanent Resident Card (green card) — copy of both sides
- ☐ Passport or other travel documents used for trips outside the U.S.
- ☐ Marriage certificate, if applying based on marriage to a U.S. citizen
- ☐ Divorce decree(s) from any previous marriages

Proof of Continuous Residence

- ☐ A list of all trips outside the U.S. since becoming a permanent resident, with dates
- ☐ Tax returns for the last 3–5 years (or proof of non-filing, if applicable)
- ☐ Lease agreements, mortgage statements, or utility bills showing your address history

Employment & Financial History

- ☐ Current employer's name and address
- ☐ Selective Service registration number, if you're a man who lived in the U.S. between ages 18–25

Good Moral Character Documentation

- ☐ Certified court records for any arrest, charge, or citation — even if dismissed or expunged
- ☐ Documentation of any child support obligations and proof of payment

Don't leave anything out here, even old or minor matters. Undisclosed history causes far more problems than disclosed history.

Family Information

- ☐ Names, dates of birth, and addresses of your spouse and children
- ☐ Naturalization certificate, if your spouse is already a U.S. citizen through naturalization

For Your Naturalization Test & Interview

- ☐ A valid, unexpired form of photo ID to bring to your interview
- ☐ Study materials for the civics and English tests, unless you qualify for an exemption

A Simple Timeline

90 days before filing: Confirm you meet the residency requirement (typically 5 years as a permanent resident, or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen).

60 days before filing: Start gathering your travel history and residence documents.

30 days before filing: Request certified court records for any past arrests or charges.

Filing day: Submit your complete N-400 application to USCIS.

After filing: Watch for your biometrics appointment, then your interview and civics/English test.

A note from Ahmad

A single trip that was longer than expected, or an old charge you thought didn't matter, can delay or jeopardize a naturalization case. I personally review every case at our firm to make sure your residency and moral character record is presented clearly before you ever walk into an interview.

Ready to talk about your case?

Schedule a consultation at [americandreamlawoffice.com](https://www.americandreamlawoffice.com)

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