



# LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI, INC.

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## INFORMATION ON THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS

### THE APPLICATION PACKET

The application for naturalization is form N-400. The form may be obtained at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services's (USCIS) website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). This form must be completed and submitted to apply for naturalization.

Along with your application packet, you must include the correct fees and 2 passport style photos with your application. The application fee is \$595 and you must pay a \$80 fingerprint fee. The total fee is \$675 payable to Department of Homeland Security by check or money order. However, if you are eligible, you may request a fee waiver of both the application and fingerprint fees. Individuals 75 and older do not have to submit a fingerprint fee and will not be fingerprinted. Attached is a Request for Fee Waiver form. You should attach proof of your income and expenses. The USCIS has the discretion to deny your request for fee waiver and reject your application.

If you are requesting a waiver of the English and Civics exam, you will need to submit a Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions form N-648 with your application. Your doctor should complete the form and respond fully to all the questions about your condition so that the USCIS can determine if you are eligible for the waiver. This form may also be obtained at USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

In your application packet, you should also include any other documentation requested by USCIS in the instructions portion of the N-400.



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In summary, your application packet should include the following:

- N-400 application form;
- 2 passport style photos;
- required fee and/or fee waiver;
- fingerprint fee; and
- any supporting documentation required for your application.

You should send your application packet to the address provided on the instructions portion of the N-400 form.

## **THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS: FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT & NATURALIZATION INTERVIEW**

Once you submit your application, you will receive a Receipt Notice. This confirms that the USCIS received your application and is processing your application. The next notice you will receive should be a fingerprint appointment notice notifying you of when and where to appear for this appointment. If you are 75 or older, you will not receive a fingerprint appointment.

Once your fingerprints have been taken and the USCIS completes the background check, you will be scheduled for a naturalization interview. At your interview, your application will be reviewed by an Immigration Officer and you will take the English and Civics examination. If your application is approved, then the Immigration Officer should inform you of this and tell you that you will be receiving an appointment for the oath ceremony in the mail.

If you requested a waiver of the English/Civics requirement and submitted an N-648 form, the USCIS must determine whether your form meets their requirements. If it does, then the English/Civics examination will be waived. However, if the USCIS determines that the diagnosis and symptoms listed in your N-648 form do not meet the criteria for granting an exemption of the English/Civics requirement, then USCIS will conduct the interview in English, and you must take the exam.

If the USCIS determines that your N-648 form is not sufficient and you do not pass the English/Civics examination, you will be granted a second interview. At the second interview, you can either present a new N-648 form completed by your doctor or attempt to retake the English/Civics examination.

If you do not receive a decision on your interview date, you should receive a decision on your application for naturalization within 120 days from the date of the interview.

## **OATH CEREMONY**

The oath ceremony is the final step in becoming a U.S. citizen. If the USCIS approves your application and sends you an appointment for an oath ceremony, it is very important that you attend the ceremony, take the requested documentation and complete the form as requested. You will receive your Certificate of Citizenship at the oath ceremony.