

Expeditious Naturalization

Resources & Support

Expeditious Naturalization Support

www.state.gov/gclo/keytopics

GCLOAskNaturalization@state.gov

The Global Community Liaison Office (GCLCO) assists foreign-born spouses of direct-hire U.S. Department of State employees with the expeditious naturalization process by providing instructions and source materials to prepare the naturalization packet, acting as a liaison with U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) during the adjudication process, and helping applicants prepare for the naturalization interview and exams.



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the requirements for eligibility?

An applicant must be listed as a family member on the spouse's orders for an accompanied overseas post. The assignment must be for more than 12 months. An applicant already at an overseas post must have more than 12 months remaining on the assignment at the time that USCIS receives the application.

What does expeditious naturalization mean?

Expeditious does not mean the process is expedited. With expeditious naturalization, the normal three year U.S. residency requirement is waived for spouses of certain government employees posted overseas. Security investigations are still required for all applicants and can take several months or more. Neither GCLCO nor USCIS can expedite this step.

Can conditional residents apply?

Yes. Applicants must be present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence at the time of the examination and naturalization. There are no specific requirements regarding time as a permanent resident, time in continuous residence or physical presence in the U.S., or time in a marital union.

Can my parents or stepchildren apply if they are on my orders?

No. 319(b) is specifically for spouses of employees of the United States government. Information on assisting other family members with becoming U.S. residents can be found at www.USCIS.gov.



319(b) Naturalization

Applying from Overseas



Generally, overseas applicants will submit FD-258 fingerprint cards to USCIS after they have submitted their application online. Applicants near a USCIS International Field Office overseas can take electronic biometrics.

Applicants will usually have a 2-3 month window of available dates from which to select an interview. Interviews have to be in the U.S. or one of its territories.

Interviews are held at the beginning of the week, but when planning travel, applicants should plan to remain in the U.S. for 5-7 days to allow time to apply for and receive their passports following the naturalization ceremony. Applicants must return to post after becoming a U.S. citizen.

Applying from the United States



Getting Started!
Visit www.state.gov/gclo/keytopics for information on the process and contact GCLOAskNaturalization@state.gov with questions.

Submit to
GCLOAskNaturalization@state.gov:

- Cover Letter Information Form (CLIF)
- TMOne
- Copy of green card or other proof of LPR status

5 days

Apply:
GCMO will email the cover letter, application, instructions, and supplemental documents to the applicant to prepare and submit to USCIS.

2 weeks

Verify:
Applicants can verify USCIS receipt of application by:

- Tracking of shipment showing delivery;
- Payment clearing bank; and
- I-797C in mail showing receipt of application.

2-4 weeks

I-797C will come in the mail for an appointment for domestic employees to have biometrics taken.

Processing:
Fingerprint cards or biometrics are sent to the FBI for background checks — the time for this stage varies.

4-6 months

Naturalize:
When background checks are complete, the file will be transferred to USCIS Fairfax. The USCIS agent will review it and notify GCMO with available dates for the interview and oath ceremony. It is possible to go to a location other than Fairfax — discuss benefits with GCMO. The GCMO program specialist will email the applicant to schedule the interview.

Newly naturalized citizens under 319(b) naturalization must be at post within 45 days of taking the oath. The agent conducting the interview will require orders and flight itinerary before proceeding with the oath ceremony.

Citizenship Complete!

