



FORT SILL LEGAL ASSISTANCE



CITIZENSHIP FOR SPOUSES

How can I obtain citizenship for my spouse?

Please refer to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website at <https://www.uscis.gov/military/citizenship-for-military-family-members>. This will provide you with up-to-date changes to the requirements for your application.

Spouses of U.S. citizen service members may be eligible for expedited or overseas naturalization and may not be required to establish any prior period of residence or specified physical presence within the U.S., which is typically required.

How can I get Expedited Naturalization for my Spouse?

Spouses of U.S. citizen service members who are or will be stationed outside of the United States may be eligible for expedited naturalization inside the U.S.

Requirements to Apply:

1. Be age 18 years or older.
2. Establish you are the spouse of a U.S. citizen who is or will be regularly stationed abroad as a U.S. service member for a period of one year or more.
3. Be authorized to accompany your spouse abroad by your spouse's official orders.
4. Be present in the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident at the time of your naturalization application interview.
5. Declare in good faith upon naturalization an intent to reside with your U.S. citizen spouse and to reside in the U.S. immediately upon your spouse's termination of service abroad.
6. Be able to read, write, and speak basic English.
7. Have a basic knowledge of U.S. history and government (civics).
8. Have been, and continue to be, a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the U.S. Constitution and well-disposed to the good order and happiness of the U.S. during all relevant periods under the law.

USCIS will only accept the following documents issued by the U.S. Armed Forces as "official orders:"

Copy of Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders issued to a service member for a permanent tour of duty overseas that specifically name the spouse or child applying for naturalization.

If the submitted PCS orders do not specifically name the applicant beyond reference to "spouse," "child," or "dependent," then the applicant **must** submit:

PCS orders (copy);

Form DD-1278 (Certificate of Overseas Assignment to Support Application to File Petition for Naturalization); and

Service member's Form DD1172 (Application for Uniformed Services Identification Card DEERS Enrollment) naming dependents.

What if my Spouse is deployed overseas and I accompany them, can I Naturalize Abroad?

Yes, eligible spouses of service members can naturalize abroad without requiring them to return to the United States for any part of the naturalization process.

To be eligible, you **must** be:

- A lawful permanent resident (green card holder) of a service member
- Be authorized to accompany the service member abroad per the service member's official orders
- Meet the requirements of INA 316(a) or INA 319(a) at the time of filing for naturalization, **except** for the residence and physical presence requirements.

How Do I Apply?

Please follow these three steps:

STEP ONE: Fill Out Form N-400



Application for Naturalization
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form N-400
OMB No. 1615-0052
Expires 09/30/2022

For USCIS Use Only	Date Stamp	Receipt	Action Block
Remarks			

► **START HERE - Type or print in black ink.** Type or print "N/A" if an item is not applicable or the answer is none, unless otherwise indicated. Failure to answer all of the questions may delay U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) processing your Form N-400. **NOTE: You must complete Parts 1 - 15.**

If your biological or legal adoptive mother or father is a U.S. citizen by birth, or was naturalized before you reached your 18th birthday, you may already be a U.S. citizen. Before you consider filing this application, please visit the USCIS Website at www.uscis.gov for more information on this topic and to review the instructions for Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, and Form N-600K, Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate Under Section 322.

NOTE: Are either of your parents a United States citizen? If you answer "Yes," then complete **Part 6. Information About Your Parents** as part of this application. If you answer "No," then skip **Part 6.** and go to **Part 7. Biographic Information.**

Go to <https://www.uscis.gov/n-400> download and or print out Form N-400 and fill it out in type or blank ink.

Here you can find the necessary instructions to complete the document at <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/n-400instr.pdf>. Along with a checklist at <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/attachments.pdf>.

You should indicate if you are seeking to naturalize through the general provision or on the basis of your marriage to a U.S. citizen. You **must** have been **married for three years** before applying for naturalization, even if overseas. Spouses should also write in "Overseas Naturalization."

STEP TWO: Attach Evidence Required by Form N-400

Evidence Required:

1. A copy of your Permanent Resident Card.
2. A copy of your marriage certificate.
3. Evidence of your citizen spouse's employment abroad.
4. Two passport-style photographs (if you reside outside the United States); make sure the photographs have a white or off-white background.
5. Form DD-1278, *Certificate of Overseas Assignment to Support Application to File Petition for Naturalization*
Form DD-1278 must be completed and signed by the military official certifying the applicant has "concurrent travel orders" and is authorized to join their spouse military service member abroad.
6. Fingerprint Cards FD258
The spouse should submit two completed fingerprint cards (FD-258). Spouses applying overseas must have their fingerprints taken at a U.S. military base, an overseas USCIS field office, or an American Embassy/Consulate. Spouses applying in the United States must have their fingerprints taken at a USCIS Application Support Center.

STEP THREE: File your Form N-400

- **You MUST attach a filing fee to your application.**

Currently, \$640 but should also include a biometrics fee of \$85 for a total of \$725. You may pay online if filing your Form N-400 online; if filing by mail, you may pay by money order, personal check, cashier's check, or by credit card, but you will need to use Form G-1450.

If paying by check, you must make the check payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Do **NOT** abbreviate by using DHS.

Where do I File my Form N-400?

You must file your Form N-400 either online; to do so, you must create a USCIS account or by mail.

If you are applying by mail, send it to the following address:

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):

USCIS
P.O. Box 4446
Chicago, IL 60680-4446

For FedEx, UPS, or DHL deliveries:

USCIS
Attn: Military N-400
131 S. Dearborn, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60603-5517

Please refer to <https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>, and the where to file tab to ensure the correct address.

Do NOT forget to sign your form. Unsigned forms will be rejected.

What if I need help with my application?

Current members of the military and their families, as well as veterans, may call the USCIS toll-free military helpline at 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645, TTY 800-877-8339) or by sending an e-mail to militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov. Representatives can answer your questions Monday through Friday from 0800 AM - 1600 PM CST, excluding federal holidays.

You can also find guidance on how to fill out your forms at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance/form-filing-tips> and <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance>.

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This Information Paper provides only basic information and is not intended to serve as a substitute for personal consultation with a Legal Assistance Attorney. To schedule an appointment with a Legal Assistance Attorney, please contact the Legal Assistance Office at (580) 442-5058. The Fort Sill Legal Assistance Office is located on the 4th Floor of Building 4700 (Welcome Center) at 4700 Mow-Way Road, Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503.