



Executive Summary

Stakeholder Engagement Revised Form N-400, Application for Naturalization February 20, 2014

Overview

On February 20, 2014, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) hosted a national stakeholder teleconference to provide a general overview of the recent revisions made to the [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#). During the teleconference, USCIS provided guidance on the revisions and the reason for the changes, provided information on filing requirements, and offered details on where to find additional educational resources. USCIS officials also answered questions from stakeholders. Below is an outline of the general information provided during the call, along with useful resources for additional guidance.

Revisions to Form N-400, Application for Naturalization

Representatives from the USCIS Field Operations Directorate began by explaining why USCIS revised the Form N-400. In 2012, USCIS launched a [forms improvement initiative](#) to enhance forms and make them easier for customers to understand and submit. Enhancements made to Form N-400 include:

- New formatting to simplify the application and to more accurately capture data;
- The addition of 2D barcode technology to improve USCIS' ability to more accurately and quickly intake the form at a USCIS Lockbox facility;
- Improved instructions which:
 - Highlight and clearly label general eligibility requirements and naturalization testing exemptions,
 - Provide additional information for members of the U.S. Armed Forces,
 - Explain the requirements for early filing, and
 - Expand on and explain required evidence;
- Clearer explanations of the eligibility requirements for English language exemptions;
- Questions related to national security and good moral character, in accordance with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 and the Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2008;
- Preparer, applicant, and interpreter statements written to ensure that all parties, including the applicant, understand the form's information requests; and
- Clearer explanation for renunciation of foreign titles and orders of nobility, including a renunciation statement.

USCIS made these enhancements available for public comment through the Federal Register for a 60-day comment period from December 20, 2012, through February 19, 2013, and again for 30 days from March 20, 2013, through April 19, 2013.

While Form N-400 now has more pages, USCIS emphasized that the naturalization requirements have not changed and that much of the added length is due to the addition of the 2D barcode. The revised questions add clarity and serve as an additional source of information that USCIS can use to make informed and accurate determinations of naturalization eligibility.

Filing Requirements

USCIS specifically mentioned the transition period for the revised Form N-400. The revised form is dated 9/13/13 and is notated with an N, which means previous versions are NOT accepted; thus after May 5, 2014, USCIS will only accept the revised Form N-400. The version date can be found on the bottom left side of the document.

Military filings must be submitted to the Nebraska Service Center. All other filings must be submitted to either the Phoenix or Dallas Lockbox facility, depending on where the applicant resides. More details relating to filing locations can be found online at www.uscis.gov/n-400.

The fee for Form N-400 has not changed. The filing fee is \$595, and the biometrics services fee is \$85. Applicants age 75 or older do not need to pay the biometric services fee.

Stakeholder Feedback

At the end of the teleconference, USCIS invited stakeholders to ask questions of various subject matter experts. The most frequently asked questions from stakeholders touched upon:

- Clarification on the 2D barcode, how it is used, and how it can be duplicated;
- Whether or not the 2D barcode is compatible with all Web browsers;
- Where educational resources can be found;
- The number of years of foreign travel that should be reported on Form N-400;
- Clarification on the requirements for questions related to national security and good moral character, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, and the Child Soldiers Accountability Act of 2008. Stakeholders asked for explanation on Question 14 in Part 11 of Form N-400 regarding genocide and torture;
- Clarification on Selective Service affidavits; and
- The extent that the revised Form N-400 will affect naturalization interviews.

USCIS will consolidate these and additional questions and provide a list of recommended filing tips for the revised Form N-400.

Resources

Resources specific to Form N-400 can be found online at www.uscis.gov/n-400.

All USCIS educational resources can be found in the Citizenship Resource Center, also found online at www.uscis.gov/citizenship.

Specifications for duplicating the 2D barcode can be found online at www.uscis.gov/forms/uscis-2d-barcode-requirements.