

Red Flags for Naturalization

A U.S. citizen will have new rights and responsibilities. Not everyone will be eligible for naturalization. It is important to carefully screen applicants and get all the facts, assess any potential issues and consider your clients options before they apply.

As you prepare to screen applicants for naturalization, please check all boxes that may apply to your client. This checklist has a series of questions to ask applicants that could (but not always) indicate an eligibility or deportability issue.

It is important for your client to be completely honest on the application for Naturalization. If one of these boxes is checked, it does not mean that your client will not be able to become a citizen.

- I made a trip outside of the United States and stayed for more than six (6) months
- I moved to another country after I got my green card
- I have been to Immigration Court since receiving my green card
- I have been arrested or convicted of a crime or I have committed a crime
- I am on probation or parole for a criminal conviction
- I have not filed federal income taxes, or I owe taxes
- I have not supported my children, or I owe child support
- I am a male between the ages of 18 and 26 and I have not registered for the Selective Service (the draft)
- I am male who lived in the United States between my 18 and 26 birthdays, but did not register for Selective Service during that time
- I have said something on my application that is not true
- I lied to get my green card, or I was not originally eligible for my green card when I received it
- I lied to receive or to continue to receive public benefits
- I helped someone enter the United States illegally
- I have falsely claimed to be a U.S. citizen
- I have voted or registered to vote in the United States
- I have engaged in illegal gambling
- I have been involved in prostitution
- I use illegal drugs or alcohol
- I have been an advocate of Communism, Nazism, or terrorism

If any of these boxes are checked it is recommended that you speak with an immigration attorney with naturalization experience. If you have any questions, you can contact NIWAP for technical assistance at info@niwap.org and/or (202) 274-4475.

This document was adapted from Professor Veronica Thronson's (Clinical Professor of Law and Director at MSU Law Clinics) document, *Becoming a Naturalized U.S. Citizen*.