



## IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER — of MINNESOTA —

### Mission

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota enhances opportunities for immigrants and refugees through legal representation for low-income individuals, and through education and advocacy with diverse communities.

### Values

ILCM's values are grounded in respect for and partnership with our immigrant and refugee clients.

- We bring our full legal passion, dedicated attention and highest quality service to our low-income immigrant and refugee clients and their families;
- We value relationships with the communities we serve and seek to express their full potential and contributions through our work together;
- We work with excellence and integrity;
- We believe in taking action to make immigration systems work for all.

### Unique Attributes

- ILCM is the only legal program in Minnesota that provides comprehensive immigration services to low-income persons of all nationalities regardless of legal status.
- ILCM has offices in St. Paul, Austin, Moorhead, and Worthington - increasing access to legal services for immigrants and refugees throughout Minnesota.



## Citizenship and Naturalization



### Naturalization Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for citizenship or naturalization, you must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be 18 years old or older.
2. You must have been a legal permanent resident (LPR or green card holder) for five years, or three years if you are married to a U.S. citizen.
  - a. If you served in the U.S. Armed Forces, you may be eligible even if you are not a legal permanent resident.
  - b. If you are a refugee, your five years begins on the date you entered the United States.
3. You must be physically in the United States for at least half of the required residency period (three or five years).
4. You must not have moved to another country or left the United States for more than six months at one time.
5. You must have good moral character.
6. You must take a test of U.S. history and government.
7. You must read, write, and speak basic English. There are a few exceptions:
  - a. To take the U.S. history and government test in your native language, you must be 55 years old and have been an LPR for at least 15 years, OR be 50 years old and an LPR for at least 20 years.
  - b. To take a simplified version for the U.S. history and government test, you must be 65 years old and have been an LPR for at least 20 years.
  - c. You can be exempted from some or all of the educational requirements if a doctor or psychologist adequately completes a form (N-648) for you indicating you have a condition(s) that makes it impossible for you to learn English and/or to take the U.S. history and government test.
8. You must swear loyalty to the United States and in front of a judge.

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## ILCM Intake Hours

ILCM provides legal assistance to individuals currently living in Minnesota of any nationality who qualify for services based on their income and case type.

**1-800-223-1368**

Please call our intake line during intake hours to schedule an appointment to speak to a legal staff member. Our intake hours can be found on our website, please use the QR code below.

We do not take walk-in appointments. Contact ILCM as soon as you become aware of a legal issue. There may be a waiting list for services.



## Requirements for Intake:

### Income

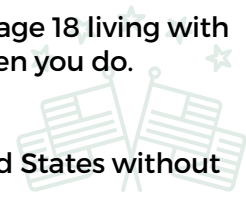
All potential clients must be at or below 187.5 percent of the federal poverty line. Please see the chart for specifics.

### Type of Immigration Case

ILCM can only assist with immigration-related cases. If you are an immigrant who needs help with another area of law, such as housing, family law, public benefits, or employment, our office will not be able to assist you. We also cannot assist with non-immigrant visas, such as student or business visas.

## Advantages of U.S. Citizenship

- You can file to bring family members, such as children, parents, and siblings to live in the United States.
- The process of reuniting your spouse and children generally will be much faster if you are a citizen.
- Any of your unmarried LPR children under age 18 living with you will automatically become citizens when you do.
- You can vote in all elections.
- You can be elected to public office.
- You can live and travel outside of the United States without losing your citizenship.
- Many federal jobs require you to be a U.S. citizen.
- Traveling to some foreign countries may be easier for a citizen of the United States.



## Disadvantages of Becoming a U.S. Citizen

- You may lose your citizenship in your country of origin, unless that country allows you to have citizenship in two countries.
- You may have difficulty maintaining ownership of property in another country.
- You may lose your right to vote in your country of origin.

## Barriers to Becoming a U.S. Citizen

See an immigration law attorney before applying for citizenship if any of the following is true.

- You made trips out of the United States that lasted longer than six months.
- You moved to another country since receiving your green card.
- You are in deportation (removal) proceedings, or have been deported.
- You have not filed your federal income taxes.
- You have not provided financial support for your children.
- You are a male and have not registered with the Selective Service.
- You have been arrested, convicted, or have committed a crime.
- You have ever been involved with drugs, prostitution, polygamy, firearms, domestic abuse, or child abuse.
- You committed fraud to enter the United States or to get your green card, or you were not eligible when you originally got your green card.
- You lied or committed fraud to receive public benefits.
- You falsely claimed to be a U.S. citizen.
- You helped someone enter the United States illegally.

## 187.5% of the 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines

| Family/Household Size           | Annual   | Monthly | Weekly  |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1                               | \$27,338 | \$2,278 | \$526   |
| 2                               | \$36,975 | \$3,081 | \$711   |
| 3                               | \$46,613 | \$3,885 | \$896   |
| 4                               | \$56,250 | \$4,688 | \$1,082 |
| 5                               | \$65,888 | \$5,490 | \$1,267 |
| 6                               | \$75,525 | \$6,294 | \$1,452 |
| 7                               | \$85,163 | \$7,097 | \$1,638 |
| 8                               | \$94,800 | \$7,899 | \$1,823 |
| For each additional person add: | \$5,140  | \$428   | \$99    |