



episcopal community services of long island

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DISCLAIMER: The following information is not legal advice. It is for educational and informational purposes only. If you need legal advice, consult a licensed immigration attorney or an accredited representative from a Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) recognized agency. An undocumented immigrant should not seek legal advice from a notario or an "immigration consultant" who is not accredited by the BIA

REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN THROUGH NATURALIZATION

To qualify for naturalization, you must:

1. Be at least 18 years old.
 2. Be a lawful permanent resident (have a "green card") for five years.
 - *If you are married to a U.S. citizen, you may need to be a lawful permanent resident for only three years.*
 - *If you had refugee or asylee status, you do not need the full 5 years of being a permanent resident. See a naturalization expert.*
 3. Have good moral character.
 - *This means, among other things, not having certain problems with the police or other authorities.*
 4. Be able to speak, read and write English at a basic level.
 - *There are exceptions for older people. You do not have to know English if when you apply for naturalization:*
 - 1) *You are 55 years or older and have had a green card for 15 years, or*
 - 2) *You are 50 years or older and have had a green card for 20 years.*
 5. Be able to pass a test on U.S. history and government.
 7. Swear that you are loyal to the United States.
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