

## When To Seek Legal Advice

**If any of the following things is true for you, you will need legal advice before applying for citizenship.** These things don't necessarily mean that you cannot apply for naturalization, but you should talk with an immigration attorney about the best strategy and timing for applying for naturalization.

**Check the box next to whichever of the following is true for you:**

### **PRESENCE**

- You have been out of the U.S. for more than 6 months at a time since getting your green card or you have been out of the U.S. for at least half of the time you're had your green card.
- You have moved to another country since getting your green card.

### **CRIMINAL / IMMIGRATION**

- You have been arrested for, charged with, convicted of, or have admitted committing a crime.
- You have been or are a drug abuser or addict OR USCIS may have reason to believe you are a drug trafficker.
- You have been involved in prostitution or commercialized vice.
- You have engaged in or are engaging in activity USCIS calls "terrorist activity".
- You have been involved with illegal gambling.
- You are on probation or parole from a criminal conviction.
- A court has determined that you violated a protection order.
- You are currently in deportation or removal proceedings, or have been ordered removed, deported, or excluded in the past.
- You have helped someone come to the U.S. illegally, even if the person you helped is your child or spouse.

### **GREEN CARD ISSUES**

- The information on your citizenship application differs from or contradicts the information you gave to get your green card or another immigration status.
- You have made false statements to retain or obtain an immigration benefit, including your green card.

*Adapted from the **Citizenship Day Coordinator Resource Guide** developed by the AILA National Pro Bono Services Committee with assistance from the NALEO Educational Fund.*

**SELECTIVE SERVICE**

- You are a male and did not register for the Selective Service between the ages of 18 and 26.

**MONEY – TAXES / CHILD SUPPORT**

- You have failed to pay taxes, or paid as a non-resident.
- You haven't supported your children.

**OTHER**

- You are what USCIS calls a habitual drunkard. This could be still be an issue even if you don't currently drink alcohol or haven't drunk alcohol for many years.
- You came to the U.S. to practice polygamy.
- You have voted or registered to vote in any election in the U.S.
- You claimed to be a U.S. citizen but weren't.