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# How to Become Naturalized

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and the Finnish Socialist Federation, 1914]

An extended excerpt of the bilingual pamphlet *How to Become Naturalized/Kuinka voi Päästä Kansalaiseksi.*  
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Suomennettu S.S. Jarjeston Keskusvirastossa, 1914), pp. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 58, 60, 62.

## *Easy to Become a Citizen.*

No one should have any difficulty in becoming an American citizen.

It is a very simple and easy matter.

There are thousands of people who ought to be enjoying the full privileges of American citizenship, who hesitate and put off getting their naturalization papers because they fear that it is a difficult and complicated matter.

It is neither difficult nor complicated.

If the reader will go over the following pages, he will find the matter clearly and simply explained, and, in all ordinary cases, will have no difficulty whatever.

The whole process is simple and the final examination is very easy. Most of the questions asked by the judge related to common, everyday facts with which everyone is familiar, without any previous preparation.

An applicant is rarely asked more than 10 or 12 questions, aside from those concerning himself personally; and generally, not even that many. Nor are the questions difficult.

The list of questions on page 30 are similar to the ones most frequently asked, and cover even more than are usual.

There occasionally arises some special case that is peculiar and unusual. All such may refer their special difficulties to the local naturalization committees of the Socialist Party, or if there are none such known to them, they may apply directly to the Information Department of the Socialist Party, 803 W Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois., Further information and all

necessary assistance will be gladly supplied.

In New York City, the Rand School of Social Science, at 140 E 19th Street, conducts courses of instruction in naturalization, and will answer specific questions. And in St. Louis, Mo., L.E. Hildebrand, at 966 Chouteau Avenue, has made a special study of this matter, and will answer any questions in special cases. In writing to one of the above addresses, enclose a stamp for reply.

## *I. General Instructions.*

A foreigner who wishes to become a citizen of the United States must secure three documents, as follows:

1. His Declaration of Intention, popularly called "first papers."
2. His Certificate of Arrival.
3. His Certificate of Naturalization, called generally "second papers."

### **1. First Papers.**

A person of the white race, or African birth, or African descent, is allowed to become a citizen of the United States; but not persons of other races.

You can get your first paper the day you arrive in the United States, or at any time thereafter. You must be 18 years of age or over. Go to the clerk of the court in the district where you live. See the clerk of the United States District Court, or of any other court authorized to issue these papers. The clerk will make the paper for you and will give you a copy of it, which will cost

you one dollar. You do not have to sign this paper.

You will have to tell your name, age, occupation, description of personal appearance, country, and date of birth, present address, vessel on which you came to the United States, and date and port of your arrival. You must declare your intention to give up allegiance to the country of your birth and to its ruler, and to be loyal to the United States, and assert that you are not an anarchist, or a polygamist, or a believer in polygamy. You are supposed to give the above information under oath. If you object to taking the oath, you can simply "solemnly affirm" that your statements are true.

First papers secured in one state are good in any other state.

You do not need to secure your first papers if you have served in and been honorably discharged from the United States Army; or if you have served 5 years in the Navy of the United States; or if you have served an enlistment in the Marine Corps of the United States.

## **2. Certificate of Arrival.**

At the same time that you get your first paper, ask the clerk for the blank form requesting a "Certificate of Arrival." Fill this out and mail it, with your first paper, to the government office in Washington at the address printed on it, and your certificate will be mailed to you, together with the first paper, without any charge.

If you arrived in the United States before June 29, 1906, and took out your first paper before September 27, 1906, you do not need this certificate, but if you arrived after that date, be sure to get it.

If you do not remember the date of your arrival, write to the Commissioner of Immigration at the port of arrival. Tell him the approximate date of sailing, the port from which you sailed, the name of the vessel, or the name of the company owning the vessel, and, as near as you can, the time of your arrival. He will look up these matters for you, and furnish you with enough information for you to go ahead and get your papers.

## **3. Second Papers.**

To make application for the second paper, you must have been in the United States 5 years or more, and your first paper must be at least 2 years old, and

not more than 7 years old.

There is one exception to this rule, and that is, that if your first paper was secured before September 27, 1906, you will still be able to use it.

When you go to the court to apply for your second paper, take with you your first paper and your certificate of arrival (if you have secured one under the present law). You must have lived in the state where you are at least 1 year, and you must be able to speak English. You will be required to sign your petition blank in your own handwriting.

If you took out your first paper under the old law, before September 27, 1906, you will not be required to speak English or to sign the petition in your own handwriting.

You must give the following information:

Name.

Place of residence.

Occupation.

Date and place of birth.

Residence just before coming to the United States.

Port where you landed.

Date of landing.

Date and place of first paper.

Name of wife, if you are married.

Place of her birth.

Name, date, and place of birth of each of your children.

You must declare that you are not opposed to organized government and are not affiliated with any association which teaches disbelief in organized government; that you are not a polygamist nor a believer in polygamy; that you will support the constitution of the United States; that you intend to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce allegiance to any foreign state or ruler; that you are able to speak the English language; that you have lived in the United States 5 years, and in the state 1 year; that you have never before applied for naturalization certificate, or, if you have applied and been refused, that the cause for such refusal has since been removed.

Take with you two witnesses, who are citizens, and who will declare that they have known you and seen you often for the last 5 years, and that your character is good and you will make a desirable citizen.

You will have to pay \$2 when you fill out this

petition.

Notice will then be posted in the courthouse that you have filed your petition, and the names and addresses of your witnesses will be given on the notice. The clerk will then send your petition to Washington, for purposes of inspection and record, and then it will be returned to the court for your final hearing.

Ninety days (or sometimes a little more) after you file your petition, you and your witnesses will be summoned to the court for your final hearing. The judge will ask you several questions about the government of the United States, and other general subjects covered in Part IV of this pamphlet, and if he is satisfied with your answers, he will have your certificate of naturalization made out for you. This certificate will cost you \$2 more, making \$5 in all, for your papers.

Be sure that the same two witnesses who gave their names at the time you made application go with you to the hearing. If they are not the same people, you will probably have to wait 90 days more while the names of the new witnesses are posted in the courthouse.

If you have not lived in the place where you make your application for 5 years, you will have to take two witnesses who have known you for the 1 year or more you have been there. Then take the names and addresses of two witnesses, who are also citizens, who knew you in each of the other places you have lived, for 5 years back, and who would be willing to sign written declarations, or depositions, saying that they have known you for the length of time specified. The clerk will then write to the district attorney in those places to get these depositions. This will cost you something — probably from \$4 to \$8 for each place, and you will have to pay what the court asks.

Be sure that your full name is spelled correctly on all papers, and that all questions are answered accurately by you and your witnesses. Sometimes a very little mistake in the answers will keep you from getting your papers.

Do not let anyone persuade you that you need a lawyer or other assistance. No legal help is required. The clerk is supposed to give you full information and you need apply only to him.

If you wish to change your name legally, be sure to give your old name correctly on all the papers, and then when the final hearing is held, tell the judge that

you want to take a new name, and he will fix it up for you.

If you lose your first paper before you get the second one, or if you lose your second paper, write to the clerk of the court in the place where you got the paper, give him your name and the date of your paper, and ask for a duplicate. This will cost you whatever the court asks — probably the same sum you first paid for the paper.

## ***II. Instructions for Women and Children.***

### **1. Women.**

An unmarried alien woman can get her citizen's papers by exactly the process a man follows.

An unmarried alien woman becomes a citizen by marrying a citizen of the United States.

An alien woman, married to an alien man, becomes a citizen at the time that her husband secures his citizenship. Otherwise she cannot become a citizen, except after termination of the marital relation, by making application in the regular way for naturalization.

An American woman loses her citizenship if she marries an alien. If she becomes widowed or divorced, she can resume her American citizenship at pleasure (1) if she lives in the United States, by continuing to reside therein; or (2) if she resides abroad, by registering as an American citizen within one year with a consul of the United States, or by returning to reside in the United States.

### **2. Children.**

A child of an alien who is 21 year of age or over at the time his parent becomes naturalized cannot be a citizen without taking out his papers in the same fashion his parent has done.

A child of an alien who is under 21 at the time his parent becomes naturalized, becomes an American citizen without further procedure, through the parent's naturalization.

A child born outside the United States, of American parents, shall be an American citizen if his parents return to reside in the United States before he reaches

18 years of age; or, if at the age of 18 he registers abroad with an American consul his intention to become a resident and citizen of the United States.

The alien wife or child of an alien man who has taken out his first paper and died before taking the second paper, may become an American citizen by using the first paper of the husband or father, and making application for the second paper in the usual manner.

### **III. Extracts from the Naturalization Laws.**

(Printed edition of August 20, 1913.)

The following extracts from the naturalization laws tell you just what you have to do and give you the wording and form of the various statements and papers you have to make out:

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### **IV. Some Things You Need to Know About the United States Government.**

#### **Information Concerning Questions That Are Usually Asked.**

The United States has a republican form of government.

This means that all officials are elected by vote of the people, or are appointed by those who are elected by the people, and these officials make the laws and conduct the affairs of the government.

A monarchy is a country ruled by a king, emperor, or czar, who holds his position through inheritance, and not by a vote of the people.

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#### **Questions Asked by the Court.**

The questions which will be asked the applicant are apt to be very much like the following. They are usually fewer in number than this list, and are almost never more difficult.

1. What is the form of government of the United

States.

*A republic, or representative form of government.*

2. How does this differ from a monarchy?

*Our officials are elected by the people, or appointed by those who are elected; while in a monarchy the chief ruler, who is king or emperor, inherits his position through birth.*

3. What is our chief official called, and how long does he hold office?

*The president. He serves for a term of 4 years.*

4. Who is president now?

*Woodrow Wilson (in 1914).*

5. How does he get his office?

*He and the vice-president are elected by a body of men known as presidential electors, who are themselves elected by direct vote of the people.*

6. Who assists the president?

*The vice-president and 9 men known as the president's cabinet.*

7. What do the president, vice-president, and cabinet do?

*They conduct the affairs of the government and enforce the laws of the nation.*

8. What is the constitution of the United States, and when was it adopted?

*It is the basic fundamental law of the nation and was adopted in 1787, just after the American colonies had freed themselves from the rule of Great Britain in the war of the American revolution.*

9. Who makes the laws of the United States?

*A body of men known as the United States Congress.*

10. How is Congress formed?

*Congress has two branches, the House of Representatives and the United States Senate. The House is made up of representatives elected by the people, a certain number from each state, according to the population. The Senate consists of two senators from each state, elected by the people.*

11. Who is the representative in Congress from your district?

*(Ask a judge or clerk of any court, the postmaster, librarian, or some reliable citizen.)*

12. Who tells whether the laws are in harmony with the constitution?

*The Supreme Court of the United States.*

13. How many states are there?

*Forty-eight states and three territories.*

14. Who is the chief officer in the state?

*The governor.*

15. Who makes the state laws?

*The state Legislature.*

16. How is the state Legislature composed?

*The state Legislature as two branches, the Assembly, and the state Senate; members of both branches are elected by the people.*

17. Who is the chief officer of a city?

*The mayor.*

18. Who makes the city's laws or ordinances?

*The city council, made up of men elected from different districts of the city.*

***Edited by Tim Davenport.***

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