



## NATURALIZATION FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) spouses of US citizen Servicemembers (SMs) can become US citizens several different ways:

### 1. LPR for five years: INA 316(a)

*Anyone who has been an LPR for five years + has been continuously present in the US for 2.5 years (INA 319(e)) = can apply for naturalization.*

- The naturalization process can take place in the US *or* overseas, if the LPR spouse is living overseas with their SM spouse, pursuant to accompanied military orders. Time outside the US on accompanied military orders counts towards continuous presence in the US

### 2. Married to a US citizen and LPR for three years: INA 319(a)

*Married to a US citizen for at least three years + LPR for three years (INA 319(e)) + continuous presence in the US for 18 months = can apply for naturalization.*

- The naturalization process can take place in the US *or* overseas, if the LPR spouse is living overseas with their SM spouse, pursuant to accompanied military orders. Time outside the US on accompanied military orders counts towards continuous presence in the US

### 3. Married to a US citizen SM who is, or will be, stationed overseas: INA 319(b)

*Married to US citizen SM + LPR for any length of time + SM has accompanied overseas military orders longer than one year = can apply for naturalization immediately.*

- Generally, the LPR spouse must be in the US for their naturalization interview ceremony.

**Once you decide which option is best for you, see the resources below to start the process:**

- Complete the N-400, Application for Naturalization: <https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>.
- For specific instructions regarding overseas filing and documenting continuous presence, see <https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-i-chapter-9>.
- For discretionary expedited processing, military spouses who are on their SM spouse's orders can call the USCIS Military Help Line at: 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645).
- For more information, please see: <https://www.uscis.gov/military/citizenship-for-military-family-members>.