

Form N 648 Instructions



Instructions for Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form N-648
OMB No. 1615-0060
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What is the purpose of Form N-648?

This form is filled out and certified by certain medical professionals on behalf of applicants who are requesting an exception from the English and/or civics requirements for naturalization because of a disability and/or impairment.

Definition of Disability and/or Impairment(s) for Exception from Literacy Requirements

An applicant is eligible for this exception if they are unable to learn and/or demonstrate knowledge of English and/or U.S. history and civics because of a physical or developmental disability, or mental impairment (or a combination of impairments). The disability and/or impairment must result from anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities, which can be shown by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques. The disability and/or impairment must result in functioning so impaired that the applicant is unable to demonstrate the required knowledge.

NOTE: The definition of disability used for this exception may be different from the definition used for other purposes (for example, for Social Security Administration programs, Department of Veterans Affairs programs, and state worker's compensation programs). If your responses do not address how the applicant's disability affects their ability to learn English and civics, we will request that the applicant submit a revised or second Form N-648 with the required information.

Who should submit Form N-648 and when?

Applicants for naturalization seeking an exception to the English and/or civics requirements for naturalization because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment should submit this form when they file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Applicants whose N-648 has been found sufficient do not have to fulfill the English **and/or** civics requirements if they cannot do so because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment. (See Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 312(b)(1)). USCIS may not consider a Form N-648 if the certifying medical professional completed this form more than 180 days before the submission of Form N-400 to USCIS.

Who should not submit Form N-648?

Applicants who can satisfy the English and civics requirements for naturalization with reasonable accommodations provided under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 do not need to submit this form. Reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to, sign language interpreters, extended time for testing, and off-site examination. Applicants may request a disability accommodation online at uscis.gov/accommodations or by calling the USCIS Contact Center at 800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833). However, if you are unable to complete the English and/or civics requirements even with an accommodation, you must file Form N-648 to request an exception from these requirements. Illiteracy and advanced age alone are not valid reasons to seek an exception from the English and/or civics requirements. For additional information, go to www.uscis.gov/about-us/disability-accommodations-for-the-public.

Form N-648 instructions are essential for individuals seeking to apply for U.S. citizenship but who may have a medical condition that prevents them from demonstrating the required knowledge of the English language and U.S. civics. This form is crucial for applicants who qualify for an exemption from the standard English and civics testing requirements due to physical or developmental disabilities or mental impairments. Understanding how to complete Form N-648 accurately can significantly impact the success of a citizenship application. This article will provide a comprehensive guide on the instructions for Form N-648, its purpose, the eligibility criteria, the completion process, and common FAQs.

What is Form N-648?

Form N-648, officially known as the "Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions," is a document

used in the U.S. immigration process. It is primarily designed for applicants who are applying for naturalization but are unable to meet the standard English language and civics requirements due to a qualifying medical condition.

Eligibility Criteria

Before applying for an exemption using Form N-648, it is crucial to determine if you meet the eligibility criteria. Below are the primary factors that affect eligibility:

1. Medical Conditions

To qualify for an exemption, an applicant must have a medical condition that:

- Significantly limits their ability to learn or demonstrate knowledge of English or civics.
- Is documented by a licensed medical professional.

Common conditions that may qualify include, but are not limited to:

- Severe cognitive impairment
- Mental illness
- Developmental disabilities
- Neurological conditions
- Physical disabilities that severely limit communication

2. Time Frame

The medical condition must be of a nature that is expected to last for at least 12 months. If the condition is temporary or could resolve within a year, the applicant may not qualify for the exemption.

3. Documentation

Applicants must provide appropriate medical documentation to support their request for the exemption. This documentation must be completed by a licensed medical professional who is familiar with the applicant's condition.

How to Complete Form N-648

Completing Form N-648 requires careful attention to detail. The following steps outline the process for filling out the form:

1. Obtain the Form

Form N-648 can be obtained from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website. It is crucial to use the most current version of the form to ensure that your application is processed without delays.

2. Provide Applicant Information

The first section of the form requires the applicant's personal information, including:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Address
- A-Number (if applicable)
- Date of the naturalization application

Ensure that this information matches exactly with the details provided in your naturalization application.

3. Medical Certification Section

This section must be completed by a licensed medical professional. The physician must provide:

- Their full name and qualifications
- A detailed description of the medical condition
- An explanation of how the condition affects the applicant's ability to understand and respond to English and civics questions
- The expected duration of the condition
- A signature and date from the medical professional

4. Additional Information

If applicable, the medical professional may include additional comments or information that could support the applicant's claim for exemption. This may include specific examples of how the condition impacts the applicant's daily life and learning abilities.

5. Review and Sign

Before submitting the form, both the applicant and the medical professional should review all information carefully to ensure accuracy. The applicant must sign and date the form to certify that the information provided is true and correct.

Where to Submit Form N-648

Once Form N-648 is completed, it must be submitted with the naturalization application (Form N-400). Here are the steps for submission:

1. Combine Documents

Ensure that Form N-648 is included as part of the naturalization application package. It should be attached to the Form N-400 that you are submitting to USCIS.

2. Submit by Mail

Mail the completed application package to the appropriate USCIS address based on your state of residence. Check the USCIS website for the most current mailing addresses, as they can change.

3. Keep Copies

Before sending the application, make copies of all documents, including Form N-648, for your records. This will serve as a reference in case of any future inquiries or issues.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Filling out Form N-648 can be complex, and applicants often make common errors that can delay their application process. Here are some mistakes to avoid:

- Inaccurate Information: Ensure all personal information matches your naturalization application precisely.
- Incomplete Medical Certification: The medical professional must fully complete their section, including providing their credentials and signature.
- Not Including Form N-648 with N-400: Always submit Form N-648 alongside your naturalization application.
- Failure to Review: Both the applicant and medical professional should review the form for any typos or inaccuracies before submission.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I still apply for naturalization if I do not have Form

N-648?

If you do not qualify for an exemption, you will need to demonstrate the required knowledge of English and civics. However, if you believe you have a qualifying medical condition, it is important to consult with a licensed medical professional for Form N-648.

2. How long does it take to process Form N-648?

Processing times can vary based on individual circumstances and the volume of applications received by USCIS. Generally, it is advisable to apply as early as possible to allow for any potential delays.

3. What happens if my Form N-648 is denied?

If your exemption request is denied, you will be notified by USCIS. You may still take the English and civics tests or appeal the decision if you believe it was made in error.

4. Is there a fee for submitting Form N-648?

There is no separate fee for submitting Form N-648 itself; however, the naturalization application (Form N-400) does have associated fees.

Conclusion

Understanding Form N-648 instructions is vital for applicants who may have a qualifying medical condition that prevents them from fulfilling the standard requirements of U.S. citizenship. By carefully following the instructions, ensuring all documentation is complete, and collaborating with a qualified medical professional, applicants can navigate this process more smoothly. It is important to stay informed about any changes in regulations or procedures by regularly checking the USCIS website and seeking assistance if needed.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Form N-648?

Form N-648 is a medical certification for disability exceptions used by applicants seeking a waiver of the English and civics requirements for U.S. naturalization.

Who needs to fill out Form N-648?

Individuals applying for U.S. citizenship who are unable to meet the English and civics requirements

due to a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment.

What are the main instructions for completing Form N-648?

The form must be filled out by a qualified medical professional and should include detailed information about the applicant's disability, including the nature and extent of the impairment.

What qualifications must the medical professional have to complete Form N-648?

The medical professional must be a licensed physician, clinical psychologist, or other qualified medical personnel who has treated the applicant.

Where can I find Form N-648?

Form N-648 can be downloaded from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website.

How should Form N-648 be submitted?

Form N-648 should be submitted along with the N-400 application for naturalization and can be sent by mail or filed online if applicable.

Is there a fee to submit Form N-648?

There is no separate fee for Form N-648; it is submitted alongside the N-400 application for naturalization, which has its own filing fee.

What happens if Form N-648 is incomplete or incorrect?

If Form N-648 is incomplete or contains errors, it may delay the processing of the N-400 application or lead to a request for additional evidence.

How long is Form N-648 valid?

Form N-648 should be completed shortly before filing the N-400 application. USCIS generally expects it to be current and relevant at the time of submission.

Can I appeal if my Form N-648 is denied?

If your N-400 application is denied due to issues with Form N-648, you may appeal the decision or request a hearing, depending on the circumstances.

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