
Chapter Seven

The Disability Waiver and Accommodations

*Always do right. This will gratify
some people and astonish the rest.*

–Mark Twain

In this Chapter:

- English and Civics Testing Exemptions
- Eligibility for the Disability Waiver
- The Disability Waiver Process
- Reasonable Accommodations
- Disability and the Oath of Allegiance



People with disabilities can become citizens.

USCIS is required to change the normal citizenship procedures for people with disabilities. This chapter outlines what kinds of changes USCIS may make for people with disabilities and how to request them.

ENGLISH AND CIVICS TESTING EXEMPTIONS

Most applicants must take an English test and a United States history and government (civics) test to become a citizen. However, some people are exempt from one or both of the testing requirements.

Age 50 or Older and Permanent Residence for 20 Years or More

These applicants are exempt from the English requirement and can take the full civics test in their native language.

Age 55 or Older and Permanent Residence for 15 Years or More

These applicants are exempt from the English requirement and can take the full civics test in their native language.

Age 65 or Older and Permanent Residence for 20 Years or More

These applicants are exempt from the English requirement and can take an easier civics test that is based on 20 questions selected from the list of 100 questions. This is called "Special Consideration."

If you are in one of these categories you are automatically eligible for the English exemption. If USCIS does not provide an interpreter for your language, you may bring one of your own.

See Chapter 2 for more information on the exemptions.

Hmong Veterans and Their Spouses

A law passed in 2000 allowed certain Hmong veterans and their spouses to receive an exemption from the English requirement and Special Consideration on the civics test if they applied for citizenship on or before May 26, 2003 (or November 1, 2003 for widows of veterans).

See Chapter 2, page 24 for more information.

Disability

Applicants who have one or more disabilities which prevent them from learning English and/or civics also may receive an exemption from these tests.

To request a disability exemption, you must submit Form N-648, *Medical Certification for Disability Exception* with your citizenship application. Unlike the age/residence exemptions above, this is not automatic. It requires a decision from USCIS.

See Attachment A for a copy of Form N-648.

exempt = Free from a requirement. "I am exempt from the English requirement, so I can take the test in my native language."

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE DISABILITY WAIVER

You must meet the following requirements in order to apply for the disability waiver.

- USCIS will consider a single physical or developmental disability, a mental impairment, or a combination of disabilities or impairments.
- The disability must be permanent, lasting or expected to last at least 12 months.
- You must have a type of disability that prevents you from learning English and civics. Not all disabilities qualify for a waiver. USCIS does not automatically recognize a disability status from another government agency. A separate decision is required. For example, you may be eligible to receive SSI for a disability, but fail to be eligible for a disability waiver.
- You must be unable to pass the tests even with reasonable accommodations. All applicants with disabilities have a right to request accommodations. If accommodations alone will not allow you to pass the tests, then you may apply for a waiver.
- A medical doctor (M.D.), osteopath (D.O.) or psychologist (Ph.D.) must be able to diagnose your kind of disability with methods of diagnosis that are recognized by medical professionals. He or she must identify mental disabilities with a diagnostic code from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition*, known as the DSM IV.
- The disability can not be a result of taking illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or marijuana.

Note: Old age and/or illiteracy do not qualify for a waiver.

diagnosis = The name or description of a medical problem. "*The doctor's diagnosis was dementia.*"

Types of Disabilities

In considering your disability, USCIS looks at:

- the diagnosis or cause of your disability, in detail;
- the connection between your disability and your inability to learn English and civics;
- how your disability affects your daily living activities; and
- the doctor's final opinion that your disability makes you unable to learn English and civics.

Physical disabilities may have side effects that limit learning and memory.

Maria has suffered from several serious chronic health problems for the past 10 years. She has hypertension and heart disease. She has suffered several mild strokes. A recent stroke left her with weakness on one side of her body and difficulty with her memory. For example, she forgets peoples' names and days of the week and needs help remembering to take her medication. These memory problems make it impossible for her to learn new information, including English and civics. However, she wants to become a citizen and is able to express her desire to be one.

Examples of physical disabilities that may alone or in combination cause poor memory and inability to pass the tests: diabetes, cancer, long-term hypertension, blindness, deafness, heart disease, cerebral arteriosclerosis, angina, stroke.

Developmental disabilities are present before age 22. They can be a result of a mental or physical problem or both.

Tam was diagnosed at birth with Down's Syndrome. He did not go to school because no special education was available in his native country. His vocabulary is limited and he has a short attention span. He understands only very simple directions and easily forgets what he just learned. He knows that by becoming a citizen, he can stay in the U.S. permanently with his parents. He is requesting a waiver of the English and civics requirements. He is also requesting accommodations in the form of a modified interview using simple language and yes/no questions.

Examples: mental retardation, Down's Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy.

Mental impairments limit a person's thinking and perception.

Saad has a history of chronic paranoid schizophrenia. This illness causes him to have severe emotional reactions to people and events. He often believes that people are trying to hurt him. He is unable to remember events as they occurred, substituting a distorted sense of reality. His reading ability is limited by intrusive thoughts. Even with medication, Saad is unable to concentrate enough to learn and express information about English and civics. However, he has expressed a desire to be a citizen.

Examples: schizophrenia, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, chronic depression, bipolar disorder, panic attacks, paranoia, post-traumatic stress disorder.

THE DISABILITY WAIVER PROCESS

You have a serious physical, mental, or developmental disability that prevents you from learning the information needed to pass the English and civics tests.



You see a medical doctor, osteopath, psychiatrist, or clinical psychologist who is familiar with diagnosing your kind of disability.



The doctor, osteopath, or psychologist agrees that your disability will not allow you to meet the English and civics requirements even with accommodations. He or she fills out completely and signs the Form N-648, *Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions*.



You and a legal professional review Form N-648 to make sure it is accurate and complete.



You submit Form N-648 with your citizenship application. If needed, you also submit a request for accommodations for your disability in Part 2 of the N-400.



You attend the USCIS interview. At the beginning of your interview the USCIS officers should tell you if your disability waiver has been approved or continued.



The USCIS officer approves your N-648. The officer completes the interview, asking you questions about your N-400 in your native language and scheduling the oath of allegiance.



The USCIS officer decides that your waiver will be continued because it is not complete. You are tested on your knowledge of English and civics, but the officer explains that you will have a second opportunity to submit the waiver if you fail the test. You are approved if you pass the test and you are able to complete the interview. You are continued if you fail the test. The officer then gives you a Form N-14 explaining what additional information is needed. You are scheduled for a second interview. You return to your doctor to get the additional information.

See Chapter 6, Attachment E for a copy of Form N-14.



At the second interview, the USCIS officer approves your second N-648 and completes the interview as described above (left).



At the second interview, the USCIS officer decides that your second N-648 is still incomplete. Your request for a waiver is denied. You are tested a second time on English and civics. If you fail the test again, your application for naturalization is denied.

Professionals Who Can Certify Your Disability

Medical Doctors

Medical doctors have a degree in medicine from a board-certified medical school. They are usually internists or family practice doctors. Family physicians familiar with the patient are often the best professionals to complete the disability waiver.

For some kinds of health problems, your general doctor may recommend that you see a specialist. A specialist is a doctor who focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of certain kinds of diseases.

- Ophthalmologists specialize in eye diseases such as blindness and other vision problems.
- Audiologists specialize in hearing loss problems such as deafness.
- Cardiologists specialize in heart diseases such as arteriosclerosis, angina and long-term hypertension.
- Psychiatrists specialize in mental illnesses such as major depression, bipolar disorder, panic attacks, post-traumatic stress disorder and schizophrenia.

Clinical Psychologists

Clinical psychologists have a master's degree or a Ph.D. in psychology or counseling. They can diagnose and counsel for mental illnesses such as major depression, bipolar disorder, panic attacks, post-traumatic stress disorder, and schizophrenia, but they cannot prescribe medicine because they are not medical doctors.

Doctors of Osteopathy

Osteopaths have medical training that combines traditional and chiropractic medicine. They can be generalists or specialists in a particular area of medicine.

Note: The medical doctor, osteopath, or clinical psychologist must be licensed to practice in his or her state and must submit the license number when completing the disability waiver form.

Completing the Form N-648

How can I get a disability waiver form?

You can call the USCIS Forms Line at 1-800-870-3676 or TTY: 1-800-767-1833 or download the form from the internet at <http://uscis.gov>. You can also go to your USCIS district office or an immigration service provider.

Who should fill out my disability waiver?

Make sure that a licensed medical doctor, osteopath, or psychologist fills out your form. He or she must be experienced in diagnosing people with your kind of disability and know your health history. It is best if the medical professional is someone you have seen more than once as a patient.

Be careful about doctors who make promises. There is no guarantee that your waiver will be accepted by USCIS. Also, you should be aware that USCIS is suspicious of “look alike” waivers from the same doctor and will often reject them.

Note: Unlike the physical exam for adjustment to lawful permanent resident, it is not necessary to see a government civil surgeon.

Will I have to pay to have the form filled out?

There is no USCIS filing fee for the N-648 because it is part of the N-400 application for citizenship. However, some doctors may charge for an office visit and any tests needed to diagnose your disability and complete the form. Submitting an incomplete form to USCIS and having it rejected will cause the applicant to return to the doctor and may increase the cost.

What do I need to do before the doctor fills out the form?

You need to fill out the top part of the form and sign your name on it. By signing your name you are giving your doctor, osteopath, or psychologist permission to provide information about your physical and mental health to USCIS.

If you are unable to sign your name, USCIS will accept a mark for your signature as an accommodation. Also, you can have a legal guardian or a family member with legal guardian status sign your name on the N-648 as a reasonable accommodation. However, a legal guardian can *not* sign the N-400 on your behalf, unless you are applying for an oath waiver and the legal guardian is acting as your designated representative.

What do I need to tell the medical professional about the form?

It is very important to tell your doctor that you are requesting an exemption from the testing requirements and that he or she must explain the cause, connection, and consequences of your disability on the form. It is not enough to simply give the diagnosis. USCIS will not accept the form if it is filled out wrong or difficult to read. You can talk to a nurse, medical secretary, or social worker in the doctor's office about the form. You can also give him or her a letter with instructions on how to fill out the N-648. You do not have to do this by yourself. An advocate can help you.

New Policy

Under a new policy that took effect on May 10, 2006, USCIS now requires the medical professional to: 1) explain how the disability was diagnosed, and 2) provide a list of the clinical or laboratory diagnostic tests or methods used. However, the current Form N-648 does not request this information, so it is important for you to tell the doctor to include it. This information can be included in the answer to question 2(a).

Note: Ask your doctor to fill out the N-648 form on the USCIS website so it is type written and easy to read. The N-648 is now available as a "fillable form" at: <http://uscis.gov>. Doctors can type their answers and then print out the completed form for submission to USCIS. Remember to sign the form, and get the doctor's signature, before submitting it.



advocate = A person who supports you by communicating your needs and interests.
"I asked an advocate to review my N-648."

After Completing the N-648

Review the Disability Waiver

Review the N-648 with your doctor to make sure it is completed accurately before submitting it to USCIS. Ask your doctor to explain the answers. No space should be left blank or unanswered. If the form is handwritten, the writing must be clear and easy to read. Question number three is the most critical. The explanation must clearly describe how the disability prevents you from learning English and civics. It is advisable to seek assistance from a legal professional such as an immigration lawyer or BIA accredited representative to ensure that the N-648 is complete.

Note: You have only two opportunities to submit a complete, legible N-648 with all the required information.

Make a Copy of the Disability Waiver

Make a copy of the N-648 before you send it to USCIS and keep it in your records. Bring your copy to the interview. Keeping a copy is important in case it is rejected and you need a legal professional or doctor to review it with you.

Make Sure Your N-400 and N-648 Agree

If you are asking for a waiver of the English or civics testing requirements, be sure to answer “yes” for the question, “Are you requesting a waiver of the English and/or U.S. History and Government requirements?” in Part 3 of your N-400. Otherwise, this is an inconsistency, causing confusion for USCIS.

Mail the N-648 with Your N-400 Package

Send the disability waiver with the N-400 package, including photographs, payment, a copy of your green card, and any accommodations request.

Note: If you became disabled after submitting the N-400 or you were unaware of your eligibility for a disability waiver at the time you filed the N-400, you can submit the N-648 at the interview.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

USCIS Obligations Under the Law

According to the law (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act) USCIS must give reasonable accommodations or modify its policies for people with disabilities throughout the citizenship process. All disabled applicants have a right to request accommodations, regardless of whether or not they have requested a disability waiver. The law also says that federal agencies such as USCIS cannot discriminate against people with disabilities by not providing reasonable accommodations.

Definition of Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are changes in the citizenship process to reduce any disadvantages an applicant might have as a result of a disability. For example, someone using a wheelchair may need accommodations to enter the building and interview room. Accommodations, however, do not remove requirements under immigration law.

How to Request Accommodations

Complete Section I in Part 3 of the N-400 application. Unlike the disability waiver, you are *not* required to submit any information from your doctor. Make a copy of the N-400 before mailing it and bring the copy to the interview. If you do not include your accommodations request in the N-400, you can write a letter to USCIS explaining what accommodations you need and why.

See Attachment B for a sample accommodations request letter.

Bring the letter to the interview or, if the accommodation will require advance planning by USCIS, such as finding a sign language interpreter, schedule an appointment at your local USCIS office well in advance of your interview date to make the accommodations request verbally and in writing. If you submit a letter in advance, be sure to bring a copy of the letter to your interview. It is often helpful to get an advocate to ensure that your accommodations are provided.

Example: An applicant born deaf and mute in a country with no special education is unable to read, write, or speak in any language. He uses gestures understood only by family members. He will need a disability waiver for all testing requirements. In addition, he will need accommodations. He will request to bring a family member to the interview to assist in communicating with USCIS. Also, he will ask the officer to modify, or simplify, the interview questions as needed to help him understand.

Example: An applicant is blinded by glaucoma and unable to read and write for the English test. However, she is able to speak basic English and to learn the material on U.S. history and government. She will request, as an accommodation, that USCIS allow her to take the English and civics tests orally. The oral test will be provided as an accommodation for her disability. She will not need a disability waiver since she is able to speak English and pass the civics test. She can meet the testing requirements with reasonable accommodations.

Accommodations You Can Request

You can request many kinds of accommodations depending on your needs. For example:

For more information on using an interpreter see Chapter 6, page 225.

- Provide a wheelchair accessible site.
- Provide an interpreter fluent in the language of the deaf, such as American Sign Language (ASL), a foreign sign language, or gestures.
- Use loud speech or a written test for the hearing impaired.
- Give the literacy test in large print or test orally for the sight impaired or blind applicant.
- Allow a family member, friend, legal guardian, and/or case worker to be at the interview. These individuals may provide moral support, stress reduction, or help re-phrase questions in a way the disabled applicant can understand.
- Conduct the fingerprinting, interview, or oath ceremony at the applicant's residence when the applicant is bedridden and unable to travel to the USCIS office due to a disability.
- Give more time to answer questions on the civics test.
- Phrase questions in simple language or as yes/no questions for the cognitively impaired.
- Allow non-verbal communication, such as blinking, nodding, or tapping a finger or foot in response to questions.



If Your Accommodations Request is Rejected

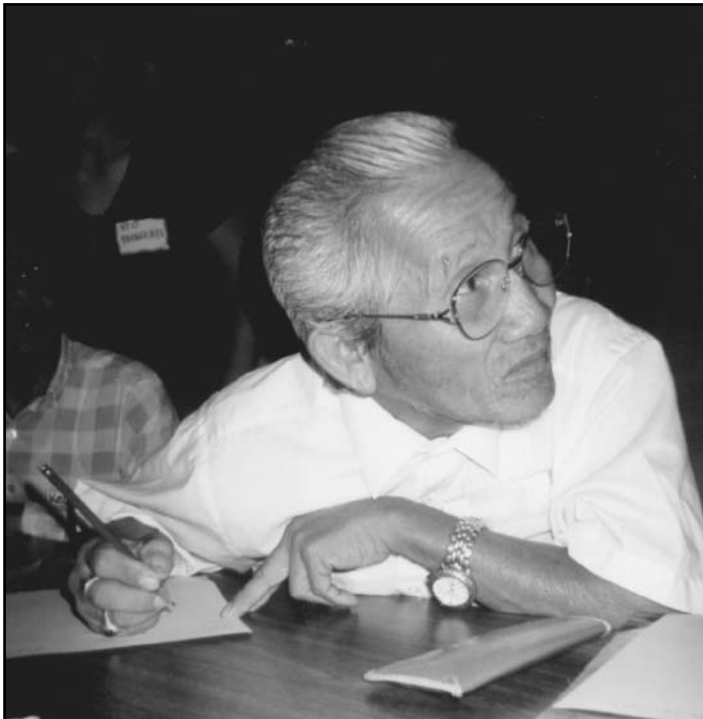
Ask to speak with a supervisor before the interview is over. If the supervisor also rejects your request, continue with the interview as best you can. If you fail two interviews and are denied, you can appeal as you would any denial of citizenship.

See Chapter 3, page 83 for more information about appeals.

When denied without accommodations given, you may file a complaint against USCIS for discrimination based on your disability. The complaint is done in addition to your appeal as it is a separate process. The complaint filed is called a "Section 504" civil rights complaint.

These are some examples of unfair treatment that may violate Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act:

- You are deaf and USCIS will not accept your choice of a sign language interpreter.
- You are blind and USCIS will not allow you to bring an escort into the interview room.
- You are bedridden due to a serious illness and USCIS will not go to your home.
- You are developmentally disabled and the USCIS officer will not provide a simplified test and give you the extra time you need to answer the civics questions.



See Attachment C for a sample Section 504 complaint form.

Filling Out the Section 504 Complaint Form

On the question about your disability, you can identify your disability by stating the type or describing how the disability affects you. For instance, you may write “autism” or “Due to my autism I am more comfortable with strangers in formal settings when a family member is with me.”

On the question about when the discrimination happened, write the date you were treated unfairly and the location where it happened.

On the question about what happened, explain why you believe you were treated unfairly because of your disability. You can add additional pages to give more details about what happened.

It is advisable to have a lawyer, BIA accredited representative, or disability advocate review the complaint before submitting it.

Where to Mail the Complaint Form

- Mail your original complaint to:
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW, Building 410
Mail Stop #0800
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Review and Compliance Unit
Washington, DC 20528
- Mail one copy of your complaint to the director of your local USCIS office.
- Mail another copy to:
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20529
- Make another copy for your records. Make a note of the date you mailed the original and copies, and send them by certified mail with a return receipt.

DISABILITY AND THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Oath Requirement

Federal law says that citizenship applicants, including most disabled applicants, must show that they understand the meaning of the oath. However, there is an exception for certain applicants who are unable to understand or communicate an understanding of the oath because of a severe physical or developmental disability or mental impairment. Congress passed a law on November 6, 2000 allowing these severely disabled applicants to obtain an oath waiver.

Applying for an Oath Waiver

The application process for an oath waiver is complex, so it is advisable to seek help from an immigration lawyer or BIA accredited representative.

The request for an oath waiver can be made at any time in the naturalization process. Normally, it is made when the N-400 is filed, by completing Part 3, Section I in the N-400 or by attaching a letter to the N-400. The oath waiver request must include a written evaluation completed by a licensed medical or osteopathic doctor or a licensed clinical psychologist. If the applicant has more than one doctor, the evaluation should be completed by the doctor who has had the longest relationship with the applicant or who is most familiar with the applicant's medical history. The evaluation must:

- explain the applicant's condition or disability in lay terms;
- describe how and why the disability makes the applicant unable to understand or communicate an understanding of the oath;
- explain the likelihood of the applicant being able to understand or communicate an understanding of the oath in the near future; and
- include the doctor's signature and state license number.

In most cases, an oath waiver applicant will be unable to respond, in any way, to the USCIS officer's questions about the N-400 and therefore will need a designated representative to act and testify on his or her behalf. The designated representative must be either:

- a legal guardian or surrogate; or
- a U.S. citizen spouse, parent, adult son or daughter, or adult brother or sister with primary custodial responsibility for the applicant.

The designated representative must submit evidence of his or her eligibility to act in this role. If the designated representative fills out the N-400 for the applicant, he or she is required to sign the preparer's box in Part 12 and, if the applicant is unable to sign, the signature box in Part 11.

Demonstrating an Understanding of the Oath

Most disabled applicants will not need an oath waiver. They will be able to show that they understand they are becoming a United States citizen and swearing allegiance to the United States. Depending on the type of disability, a disabled applicant may not understand the standard language of the oath, read as:

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law, that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

As necessary, the application's understanding of the oath can be communicated in the simplest form as a reasonable accommodation for his/her disability. For example:

- *Do you want to stay in the United States?*
- *Do you want to be a citizen like other people born in this country?*
- *Would you do anything to hurt America?*

The USCIS officer and advocate should agree on an appropriate modification of the oath-related questions for the disabled applicant. As an accommodation for a non-verbal applicant, the USCIS officer must accept a physical response to the questions, such as blinking, nodding, or tapping. Also as an accommodation, a family member, legal guardian, or advocate can be allowed to repeat the officer's oath questions directly to the applicant.

Applicants who are unable to leave their home because of a severe disability may ask USCIS to give the oath at their place of residence. This is another form of an accommodation.

OMB No. 1615-0060; Expires 08/31/08

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

**N-648, Medical Certification
for Disability Exceptions**

Part I. This section to be completed by applicant. (Please print or type information in black ink)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Alien Registration Number
Address			U. S. Social Security Number
City	State	Zip Code	
Telephone Number	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	Gender	

I, _____, authorize _____
(Applicant's Name) *(Licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy or clinical psychologist)*

To release all relevant physical and mental health information related to my medical status to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for the purpose of applying for an exception from the English language and U.S. civics testing requirements for naturalization. I certify under penalty of perjury, pursuant to Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1746, that the information on this form and any evidence submitted with it are all true and correct. I am aware that the knowing placement of false information on the Form N-648 and related documents may also subject me to civil penalties under 8 U.S.C. 1324c.

Signature _____ Date _____

Part II. This section to be completed by a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy or licensed clinical psychologist. (See Instructions.)

Purpose of This Form: The individual named above is applying to become a U. S. citizen. Applicants for naturalization are required to learn and/or demonstrate knowledge of the English language, including an ability to read, write and speak words in ordinary usage in the English language, as well as knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, and of the principles and form of government of the United States. Individuals who are unable, because of a disability and/or impairment(s) to learn and/or demonstrate this required knowledge may apply for a waiver. The purpose of this form is to help determine whether your patient is eligible for this waiver.

Definition of Disability and/or Impairment(s): An individual is eligible for this waiver if he or she is *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). These disability and/or impairment(s) 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(s) must result in functioning so impaired as to render an individual *unable* to demonstrate the *required* knowledge.

NOTE: This definition of disability is different from the definition used by the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs or worker's compensation we will require the applicant to submit a revised or second Form N-648 with the appropriate information.

Provide *all* of the following required information, using common terminology that a person without medical training can understand, with no abbreviations. Type or print clearly in black ink. Illegible and incomplete forms will be returned. If you need additional space to provide your answers, attach additional pages.

Nature and duration of disability and/or impairment(s).

1. (a) Based on your examination of the applicant, the applicant's symptoms, previous medical records, clinical findings or tests, does the applicant have any disability and/or impairment(s) that affect his or her ability to learn and/or demonstrate knowledge?
 Yes No **NOTE:** If you answer "No," applicant is ineligible for a waiver; please continue with Part II. 6.
- (b) Has the applicant's disability and/or impairment(s) lasted or do you expect it to last 12 months or longer?
 Yes No **NOTE:** If you answer "No," applicant is ineligible for a waiver; please continue with Part II. 6.
- (c) Is the applicant's disability and/or impairment(s) the direct effect of the illegal use of drugs?
 Yes No **NOTE:** If you answer "Yes," applicant is ineligible for a waiver; please continue with Part II. 6.

Form N-648 (Rev. 01/13/06)Y

Applicant's Name	Alien Registration Number A-
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Diagnosis of disability and/or impairments(s).

2. (a) Provide your clinical diagnosis of the applicant's disability and/or impairment(s) **and** describe the impairment(s) in terms a person without medical training can understand. (*See Instructions for examples*).

(b) Provide the relevant DSM-IV code(s) for each disability and/or mental impairment(s) that you described above. If a DSM-IV code does not exist, write "N/A."

Connection between disability and/or impairment(s) and inability to learn/demonstrate

The law requires that applicants for citizenship demonstrate (1) an understanding of the English language, including the **ability** to read, write and speak simple words and phrases in ordinary usage; and (2) a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of U.S. history and civics. An applicant's **difficulty** in fulfilling the requirements is not sufficient to support a waiver. In addition, illiteracy in the applicant's native language is not sufficient, by itself, to support a finding of inability to learn and/or demonstrate knowledge.

3. Based on your examination of the applicant, provide **detailed** information on the connection between the disability and/or impairment(s) and the applicant's inability to learn and/or demonstrate knowledge of English and/or U.S. history and civics (*see Instructions for examples*).

NOTE: *This description should address the severity of the effects of the disability and/or impairment(s), including the specific limitations that affect the applicant's ability to learn and/or demonstrate knowledge.*

Applicant's Name	Alien Registration Number A-
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Professional certified opinion.

The law requires that in order to be eligible for the disability exception, the applicant must be **unable** to fulfill the requirements for English proficiency and/or knowledge of U.S. history and civics. An applicant's **difficulty** in fulfilling the requirements is not sufficient to support a waiver. In addition, **illiteracy** in the applicant's native language is **not** sufficient, by itself, to support a finding of inability to learn and/or demonstrate knowledge.

4. English Requirement:

(a) In your professional opinion, has the disability impairment(s) described above affected the applicant's functioning to such a degree that he or she is **unable** to learn and/or demonstrate an ability to speak, read or write English?

Yes No

(b) If **Yes**, which of the following is the applicant unable to learn and/or demonstrate? (*Check all that apply*)

Speaking Reading Writing

5. U.S. History and Civics Requirement:

In your professional opinion, has the disability impairment(s) described above affected the applicant's functioning to such a degree that he or she is **unable** to learn and/or demonstrate knowledge of U.S. history and civics, even in a language the applicant understands?

Yes No

Background information.

6. Date of your most recent examination of the applicant (mm/dd/yyyy), _____

7. Is this your first examination of the individual?

Yes If **Yes**, from whom does the applicant usually receive medical care (i.e., name of doctor/clinic; if the applicant does not have an ongoing source of medical care, please write "N/A").

No If **No**, for how long and for what conditions have you been treating the applicant? (If the conditions are the same as in **Part II. 2**, specify the length of time and write "Conditions -- Same as **Part II. 2.**")

8. What is the nature of your medical practice? (e.g., family/general practice, internal medicine, psychiatry, cardiology)

I certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the information on this form and any evidence submitted with it are all true and correct. Upon consent of the applicant, I agree to release this applicant's relevant medical records upon request from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. I am aware that the knowing placement of false information on the Form N-648 and related documents may also subject me to criminal penalties under Title 18, U.S.C. 1546 and civil penalties under 8 U.S.C. section 1324c.

Signature _____ Date _____

Type or print the following information:

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Business Address	City, State, Zip Code	Telephone Number
License Number	Licensing State	E-Mail Address, if any

(SAMPLE LETTER - REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AT USCIS INTERVIEW)

To: District Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Address: _____

From: _____
(Print Applicant's Name)

Alien Registration Number: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

RE: ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MY DISABILITY AT MY USCIS INTERVIEW

I have the following disability: _____

(Circle one:) I am / am not requesting a waiver of the testing requirements based on my disability.

Because of my disability, it is hard for me to: _____

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please make the following accommodations for me at my USCIS interview: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION 504 - DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY

Mail to: Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Building 410
Mail Stop #0800
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Review and Compliance Unit
Washington, DC 20528

(Director, USCIS Local Office)

Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20529

Complainant: _____
(Name of the person who was subjected to the discrimination)

Alien Registration Number: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____

Evening or Message Phone: _____

Respondent: _____
(USCIS or person who you believe committed the discrimination)

Is the Complaint being sent by someone other than the person who was subjected to the discrimination? _____ If yes, please fill in below:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening/Message Phone: _____

Disability: _____

When did the discrimination happen? _____

What happened? _____

I swear under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed
_____ (date) in _____ (city), _____ (state).

(Signature)