



International Rescue Committee

100 South King Street, no. 570 • Seattle, WA 98104

Tel: (206) 623-2105 • Fax: (206) 623-2289

To: Physician for _____

RE: Form N-648, Medical Certification of Disability

Dear Physician:

Your patient, named above, is applying to become a naturalized U.S. Citizen, and is seeking a waiver of the English language and U.S. History/Civics knowledge requirements. To obtain that waiver, the applicant must submit a thorough Form N-648, completed by the physician or clinical psychologist.

USCIS has recently developed new and tougher standards for adjudication of Form N-648, and we ask that you review these prior to completion of the form. We are sending to you the form instructions, which include examples of “sufficient” and “insufficient” responses to specific questions. In addition, we are sending excerpts from the “Adjudication Guidelines” given to CIS examiners, of which the most important portions for the preparer are A and C, regarding the qualifications of the physician and the requirements for completion of the diagnostic section of the form. We hope this will be helpful to you as you prepare the form. **It is especially important that the diagnostic tests you have used to identify the impairment(s) are described.**

The DSM-IV codes for any mental disability/impairments listed in Section 2(a) **must be provided in Section 2(b)**. The codes are found at: http://allpsych.com/disorders/disorders_dsmIVcodes.htm. Note that Section 3 must include a statement from the physician explaining how the conditions make it impossible (not merely difficult) for the person from learning English as well as U.S. history/civics. Illiteracy and old age are not valid “impairments” to USCIS.

Please type your answers on Form N-648 by accessing it from the USCIS website, saving to disk, and completing it electronically. To do so, visit www.uscis.gov and click on “Forms and Fees.” CIS finds this much more preferable than a handwritten form. In addition, **please use everyday “layperson” terms in explaining the disability** since the CIS examiners do not have medical training or familiarity with specific medical terminology.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for reviewing this request and for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Chuck Perov
Accredited Representative