



DC37-MELS CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM



MELS Citizenship Program is designed to assist you with the process of becoming a United States citizen so that you can enjoy all the rights entitled to all citizens, including the right to vote. All eligible members and their immediate family members (spouse and children under 26) are provided with the service. We invite you to take advantage of this legal service and we welcome your participation.

To become a citizen of the United States you must be:

- A legal permanent resident for 5 years; 3 years residency if married to U.S. citizen.
- At least 18 years of age.
- Able to read, write and understand basic English**
- Able to demonstrate knowledge of basic U.S. history and government.
- Willing to take an oath of allegiance of the United States
- Of good moral character.

When you become a U.S. citizen you can:

- Vote
- Petition for family members
- Have more job opportunities
- Obtain scholarship opportunities
- Run for office
- Obtain a U.S. passport
- Travel freely
- Your children under the age of 18 who are lawful permanent residents automatically derive U.S. citizenship when you naturalize.

The application process:

- Two color photographs
- Copy of the alien's registration card
- A fee of \$725 (which includes the \$85.00 Fingerprinting Fee)***

Call MELS Screening at **(212) 815-1111** or email MELSScreeningUnit@dc37.net to schedule an appointment with our immigration attorney

** There are some exceptions in these cases where one may take the exam in their own native language

*** A waiver for the fee may be requested from USCIS, if qualified (fee waivers are requested in writing with supporting evidence of hardship).