

# Benefits of becoming a U.S. Citizen

### **Right to Immigrate Family Members**

A U.S. citizen can sponsor a wider number of family members to come to the U.S. and the waiting time for them to receive a visa is faster than for the relatives of permanent residents.

### **Derivative Citizenship for Children**

When a permanent resident naturalizes, his or her children under age 18 may automatically become U.S. citizens by derivation. There are certain requirements to qualify for derivative citizenship.

#### More Employment and Educational Opportunities

Many federal, state, and local government jobs, as well as certain scholarships for higher education, require U.S. citizenship.

## **Full Civic Participation**

A U.S. citizen has the right to vote in national, state, and local elections; to run for elected office; and to serve on a jury.

### **Travel Benefits**

A U.S. citizen can travel outside the U.S. for unlimited periods of time and re-enter freely.

# **Public Benefits**

A U.S. citizen can receive public benefits such as food stamps and Medicaid without the restrictions imposed on non-citizens.

# **Keep Your Residency**

In general, a U.S. citizen's right to remain in the United States cannot be taken away.

# Learn more at cliniclegal.org/citizenship.

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