

**Appendix A: Medical Waiver Process**

Via Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions or N-648 form

- used in cases where patient seeking medical exception to English and Civics testing for citizenship
- As a *medical provider* assist, screen, and prepare report on eligible individuals according to USCIS guidelines
- MD, DO, and clinical psychologists licensed in any state/territory may complete form in its entirety
- Staff can assist but medical professional alone is responsible for content accuracy

A “**Medically Determinable**” physical/developmental disability or mental impairment must...

- Last or be expected to last >12 months
- Diagnosed by acceptable clinical or laboratory techniques
- Affect functioning and preclude completion of educational requirements even with reasonable accommodations

**\*ADVANCED AGE AND ILLITERACY ALONE ARE NOT VALID REASONS\***

Requirements of Medical Professional on N-648 Form

- Conduct an in-person examination of the applicant
- Explain the nature and extent of the medical condition
- Explain how medical condition relates to the applicant’s inability to comply with testing requirements
- Attest that the medical condition has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months
- Attest that the cause of the medical condition is not related to the illegal use of drugs.
- Answer every question and certify/sign form along with the applicant

**\*BE SURE TO ATTACH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (DIAGNOSTIC REPORTS, RECORDS, LABS, ETC)\***

A properly completed N-648 form contains...

- Clinical diagnosis and DSM code
- Description of medical condition and the basis of the disability
- **Date of the medical exam of the patient**
- Description of doctor-patient relationship (Does this MD regularly treat applicant for cited condition? If not, why is he/she certifying the form?)
- Explanation of medical condition etiology, if known
- Description of clinical methods used to diagnose medical condition
- Description of medical condition’s effect on applicant’s ability to successfully complete educational requirements
- Statement whether the medical professional used an interpreter to examine the applicant

**\*COMPLETE FORM WITHOUT COMPLICATED MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY\***

-Applicant can submit waiver at *any time* but should do so along with an application for naturalization

- After application is filed but before the first examination
- During the first examination
- During the re-examination if first exam was rescheduled
- During the rehearing on a denied naturalization application

Form Reviewed Based On...	Form Not Evaluated On
<p>1) <b>Completion and Certification...</b>medical professional <b>must have signed form within six months</b> of its submission.                      -Once certified, the form is valid for duration of the application</p> <p>2) <b>Accuracy...</b>no discrepancies in biographic data, interview testimony, or A-File information</p> <p>3) <b>Scope...</b>form must fully address underlying medical condition and its causal connection with applicants inability to comply with citizenship requirements</p> <p>4) <b>Depth...</b>form must contain sufficient information to establish application eligibility for exception based on preponderance of the evidence (“more likely than not”)</p>	<p>1) <b>Validity of Medical Diagnosis</b> or ability to comply with requirements                      -MD, DO, CP assumed to have responsibility and authority to assess applicant accurately and honestly                      -USCIS can request Supplemental Disability Determination if doubt exists about the veracity of the information on original disability form. This is obtained from another medical doctor within the department to whom the patient is sent for a second opinion.</p>