

with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the recommendation of the Service, subject to review and approval by the Commissioner in those cases or classes of cases designated by him or her, for presentation to the court with the designated examiner's memorandum. In the preparation of memoranda, designated examiners and regional operations liaison officers shall be bound by the interpretations and rulings by the Attorney General or the Commissioner on Questions of Law.

[38 FR 29878, Oct. 30, 1973, as amended at 56 FR 50498, Oct. 7, 1991]

**§ 335.13 Notice of recommendation on petitions for naturalization of designated examiner.**

(a) *Recommendation that petition be denied.* When the designated examiner proposes to recommend denial of the petition filed prior to October 1, 1991, the petitioner or his or her attorney or representative shall be notified thereof and furnished a copy of the designated examiner's memorandum. The notice shall be given in conjunction with notification of the date, place, and time of holding the final hearing. The notice shall be sent by certified mail, with return receipt requested, after any review made by the regional administrator.

(b) *Recommendation that petition be granted.* When the designated examiner proposes to recommend granting of the petition filed prior to October 1, 1991 and to present the facts and issues to the court, the petitioner or his or her attorney or representative shall be notified of the recommendation and furnished a copy of the designated examiner's memorandum prior to the date of the hearing, and after any review made by the regional administrator.

(c) *Disagreement between recommendations of designated examiner and the regional administrator.* In those cases reviewed by the regional administrator in which his or her views and recommendations do not agree with those of the designated examiner, the notice required by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section shall also advise the petitioner of the recommendation of the regional administrator and that both recommendations will be presented to the court. There shall also be enclosed

with such notice a copy of the regional administrator's memorandum.

(d) *Briefs.* If the petitioner intends to file a brief or memorandum at the final hearing, he or she shall furnish a copy thereof to the Service office from which the notice on Form N-425 emanated at least 5 days prior to the date of the final hearing. Failure to do so will result in a motion for a continuance if deemed essential for the proper presentation of the Government's case.

[22 FR 9822, Dec. 6, 1957, as amended at 35 FR 17530, Nov. 14, 1970; 56 FR 50498, Oct. 7, 1991]

**PART 336—HEARINGS ON DENIALS OF APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION**

Sec.

336.1 Denial after section 335 examination.

336.2 Hearing before an immigration officer.

336.3-336.8 [Reserved]

336.9 Judicial review of denial determinations on applications for naturalization.

AUTHORITY: 8 U.S.C. 1103, 1443, 1447, 1448.

SOURCE: 56 FR 50499, Oct. 7, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 336.1 Denial after section 335 examination.**

(a) After completing all examination procedures contained in part 335 of this chapter and determining to deny an application for naturalization, the Service shall serve a written notice of denial upon an applicant for naturalization no later than 120 days after the date of the applicant's first examination on the application.

(b) A notice of denial shall be prepared in a written, narrative format, and shall recite, in clear concise language, the pertinent facts upon which the determination was based, the specific legal section or sections applicable to the finding of ineligibility, and the conclusions of law reached by the examining officer in rendering the decision. Such notice of denial shall also contain a specific statement of the applicant's right either to accept the determination of the examining officer, or request a hearing before an immigration officer.

(c) Service of the notice of denial may be made in person or by certified

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mail to the applicant's last known address, or upon the attorney or representative of record as provided in part 292 of this chapter.

**§ 336.2 Hearing before an immigration officer.**

(a) The applicant, or his or her authorized representative, may request a hearing on the denial of the applicant's application for naturalization by filing a request with the Service within thirty days after the applicant receives the notice of denial under § 336.1.

(b) Upon receipt of a timely request for a hearing, the Service shall schedule a review hearing before an immigration officer, within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 180 days from the date upon which the appeal is filed. The review shall be with an officer other than the officer who conducted the original examination under section 335 of the Act or who rendered the Service determination upon which the hearing is based, and who is classified at a grade level equal to or higher than the grade of the examining officer. The reviewing officer shall have the authority and discretion to review the application for naturalization, to examine the applicant, and either to affirm the findings and determination of the original examining officer or to redetermine the original decision of the Service in whole or in part. The reviewing officer shall also have the discretion to review any administrative record which was created as part of the examination procedures as well as Service files and reports. He or she may receive new evidence or take such additional testimony as may be deemed relevant to the applicant's eligibility for naturalization or which the applicant seeks to provide. Based upon the complexity of the issues to be reviewed or determined, and upon the necessity of conducting further examinations with respect to essential naturalization requirements, such as literacy or civics knowledge, the reviewing immigration officer may, in his or her discretion, conduct a full *de novo* hearing or may utilize a less formal review procedure, as he or she deems reasonable and in the interest of justice.

(c) *Improperly filed request for hearing—(1) Request for hearing filed by a person or entity not entitled to file.*

(i) *Rejection without refund of filing fee.* A request for hearing filed by a person or entity who is not entitled to file such a request must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee that the Service has accepted will not be refunded.

(ii) *Request for hearing by attorney or representative without proper Form G-28.* If a request for hearing is filed by an attorney or representative without a properly executed Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative (Form G-28) entitling that person to file the request for hearing, the appeal will be considered as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee that the Service has accepted will not be refunded regardless of the action taken. The reviewing official shall ask the attorney or representative to submit Form G-28 to the official's office within 15 days of the request. If Form G-28 is not submitted within the time allowed, the official may, on his or her own motion, under § 103.5(a)(5)(i) of this chapter, make a new decision favorable to the affected party without notifying the attorney or representative. The request for hearing may be considered properly filed as of its original filing date if the attorney or representative submits a properly executed Form G-28 entitling that person to file the request for hearing.

(2) *Untimely request for hearing—(i) Rejection without refund of filing fee.* A request for hearing which is not filed within the time period allowed must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee that the Service has accepted will not be refunded.

(ii) *Untimely request for hearing treated as motion.* If an untimely request for hearing meets the requirements of a motion to reopen as described in § 103.5(a)(2) of this chapter or a motion to reconsider as described in § 103.5(a)(3) of this chapter, the request for hearing must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case.

[56 FR 50499, Oct. 7, 1991, as amended at 58 FR 49914, Sept. 24, 1993]

## §§ 336.3–336.8 [Reserved]

**§ 336.9 Judicial review of denial determinations on applications for naturalization.**

(a) *General.* The provisions in part 310 of this chapter shall provide the sole and exclusive procedures for requesting judicial review of final determinations on applications for naturalization made pursuant to section 336(a) of the Act and the provisions of this chapter by the Service on or after October 1, 1991.

(b) *Filing a petition.* Under these procedures an applicant shall file a petition for review in the United States District Court having jurisdiction over his or her place of residence, in accordance with chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, within a period of not more than 120 days after the Service's final determination. The petition for review shall be brought against the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and service of the petition for review shall be made upon the Attorney General of the United States, and upon the official in charge of the Service office where the hearing was held pursuant to § 336.2.

(c) *Standard of review.* The review will be *de novo*, and the court will make its own findings of fact and conclusions of law. The court may also conduct, at the request of the petitioner, a hearing *de novo* on the application for naturalization.

(d) *Exhaustion of remedies.* A Service determination denying an application for naturalization under section 335(a) of the Act shall not be subject to judicial review until the applicant has exhausted those administrative remedies available to the applicant under section 336 of the Act. Every petition for judicial review shall state whether the validity of the final determination to deny an application for naturalization has been upheld in any prior administrative proceeding and, if so, the nature and date of such proceeding and the forum in which such proceeding took place.

**PART 337—OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

Sec.

337.1 Oath of allegiance.

337.2 Oath administered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service or an Immigration Judge.

337.3 Expedited administration of oath of allegiance.

337.4 When requests for change of name granted.

337.5–337.6 [Reserved]

337.7 Information and assignment of individuals under exclusive jurisdiction.

337.8 Oath administered by the courts.

337.9 Effective date of naturalization.

337.10 Failure to appear for oath administration ceremony.

AUTHORITY: 8 U.S.C. 1103, 1443, 1448.

**§ 337.1 Oath of allegiance.**

(a) *Form of oath.* Except as otherwise provided in the Act and after receiving notice from the district director that such applicant is eligible for naturalization pursuant to § 335.3 of this chapter, an applicant for naturalization shall, before being admitted to citizenship, take in a public ceremony held within the United States the following oath of allegiance, to a copy of which the applicant shall affix his or her signature:

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; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

(b) *Alteration of form of oath; affirmation in lieu of oath.* In those cases in which a petitioner or applicant for naturalization is exempt from taking the oath prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section in its entirety, the inapplicable clauses shall be deleted and the oath shall be taken in such altered form. When a petitioner or applicant for naturalization, by reason of religious training and belief (or individual interpretation thereof), or for other reasons of good conscience, cannot take the