(C) Involuntary separation. In the event that the applicant and spouse live apart because of circumstances beyond their control, such as military service in the Armed Forces of the United States or essential business or occupational demands, rather than because of voluntary legal or informal separation, the resulting separation, even if prolonged, will not preclude naturalization under this part.

(c) Physical presence in the United States. In the event that the alien spouse has never been in the United States, eligibility under this section is not established even though the alien spouse resided abroad in marital union with the citizen spouse during the three year period.


§ 319.2 Person whose United States citizen spouse is employed abroad.

(a) Eligibility. To be eligible for naturalization under section 319(b) of the Act, the alien spouse of a United States citizen must:

(1) Establish that his or her citizen spouse satisfies the requirements under section 319(b)(1) of the Act, including that he or she is regularly stationed abroad. For purposes of this section, a citizen spouse is regularly stationed abroad if he or she proceeds abroad, for a period of not less than one year, pursuant to an employment contract or orders, and assumes the duties of employment;

(2) At the time of examination on the application for naturalization, be present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence;

(3) At the time of naturalization, be present in the United States;

(4) Declare in good faith, upon naturalization before the Service, an intention:

(i) To reside abroad with the citizen spouse; and

(ii) To take up residence within the United States immediately upon the termination of the citizen spouse’s employment abroad;

(5) Be a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution, and favorably disposed toward the good order and happiness of the United States; and

(6) Comply with all other requirements for naturalization as provided in part 316 of this chapter, except for those contained in §316.2(a)(3) through (a)(6) of this chapter.

(b) Alien spouse’s requirement to depart abroad immediately after naturalization. An alien spouse seeking naturalization under section 319(b) of the Act must:

(1) Establish that he or she will depart to join the citizen spouse within 30 to 45 days after the date of naturalization;

(2) Notify the Service immediately of any delay or cancellation of the citizen spouse’s assignment abroad; and

(3) Notify the Service immediately if he or she is unable to reside with the citizen spouse because the citizen spouse is employed abroad in an area of hostilities where dependents may not reside.

(c) Loss of marital union due to death, divorce, or expatriation of the citizen spouse. A person is ineligible for naturalization as the spouse of a United States citizen under section 319(b) of the Act if, before or after the filing of the application, the marital union ceases to exist due to death or divorce, or the citizen spouse has expatriated. Eligibility is not restored to an applicant whose relationship to the citizen spouse terminates before the applicant’s admission into citizenship, even though the applicant subsequently marries another United States citizen.

[56 FR 50488, Oct. 7, 1991]

§ 319.3 Surviving spouses of United States citizens who died during a period of honorable service in an active duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States.

(a) Eligibility. To be eligible for naturalization under section 319(d) of the Act, the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a United States citizen must:

(1) Establish that his or her citizen spouse, child, or parent died during a period of honorable service in an active duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States and, in the case of a surviving spouse, establish that he or she was living in marital union with the citizen spouse, in accordance with 8
§ 319.4 Persons continuously employed for 5 years by United States organizations engaged in disseminating information.

To be eligible for naturalization under section 319(c) of the Act, an applicant must:

(a) Establish that he or she is employed as required under section 319(c)(1) of the Act;
(b) Reside in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence;
(c) Establish that he or she has been employed as required under paragraph (a) of this section continuously for a period of not less than five years after a lawful admission for permanent residence;
(d) File his or her application for naturalization while employed as required under paragraph (a) of this section, or within six months following the termination of such employment;
(e) Be present in the United States at the time of naturalization;
(f) Declare in good faith, upon naturalization before the Service, an intention to take up residence within the United States immediately upon his or her termination of employment;
(g) Be a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and favorably disposed toward the good order and happiness of the United States; and
(h) Comply with all other requirements for naturalization as provided in 8 CFR 316, except for those contained in §316.2(a)(3) through (a)(6) of this chapter.

[56 FR 50489, Oct. 7, 1991]

§ 319.5 Public international organizations in which the U.S. participates by treaty or statute.

Organizations designated by the President as international organizations pursuant to the International Organizations Immunities Act are considered as public international organizations in which the United States participates by treaty or statute within the meaning of section 319(b) of the Act. For a list of such organizations see §316.20(b) of this chapter. In addition, the following have been determined to be public international organizations within the purview of section 319(b) of the Act:

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
The United Nations and all agencies and organizations which are a part thereof.
The regional commissioner shall forward a copy of each decision regarding a public international organization to the Assistant Commissioner, Naturalization.


§ 319.6 United States nonprofit organizations engaged abroad in disseminating information which significantly promotes U.S. interests.

The following have been determined to be U.S. incorporated nonprofit organizations principally engaged in conducting abroad through communications media the dissemination of information which significantly promotes U.S. interests abroad within the purview of section 319(c) of the Act:

Free Europe, Inc.; formerly Free Europe Committee, Inc.; National Committee for a Free Europe (including Radio Free Europe);
Radio Liberty Committee, Inc. (formerly American Committee for Liberation, Inc.);