

State Refugee Consultation – September 29, 2016

**CITIZENSHIP AND THE
ELDERLY**

BY: HIAS PENNSYLVANIA

General Requirements for Naturalization

- Age 18
- Residence requirements
 - Physical presence
 - Continuous residence
 - Permanent residence – 5 or 3 years
 - How to count this for refugees and asylees

General Requirements for Naturalization (cont'd)

- Good moral character
- Allegiance to the United States
- Knowledge of civics and history
- English language requirements

Special Situations for Applicants with Limited English Proficiency or Disabilities

- Reasonable Accommodations”

- “Due Consideration”

- Automatic language waivers

 - 55/15

 - 50/20

 - 65/20

Special Situations (cont'd)

➤ Medical Waivers

- Who can apply for medical waivers?
- What is the process for applying?
- Can any doctor fill out the form?

Special Situations (cont'd)

Medical Waivers

➤ Challenges:

- Determining if a medical waiver is appropriate
- Problems with doctors who are unwilling or unable to fill out the forms correctly –how do we handle such situations?

Special Situations (cont'd)

Medical Waivers

- Problems with USCIS accepting medical waivers
 - what do we do?
 - Importance of advocacy
 - These cases should preferably be done by accredited reps. or attorneys who can accompany clients to their interviews and advocate for them during interview
 - What to do if waiver is not accepted, despite our advocacy at interview

Fee Waivers

- Who can apply for a fee waiver?
- What to do if you feel that a fee waiver is incorrectly denied?
 - lockboxsupport@uscis.dhs.gov
- Let us know about fee waiver rejections, if there are a lot

HIAS Pennsylvania – How Can We Help You?

- We can serve as a resource for questions and advice
- We can do trainings for your staff (in the Philadelphia 5-count area)
- We can do presentations for groups of clients (in the Philadelphia 5-county area)



Questions?