

Citizenship Denied Due to Good Moral Character (Ways of Overcoming Moral Character Issues And Obtaining Citizenship)

Ever wondered how a person's moral character can impact their chances of obtaining citizenship?

Imagine, you are a hard-working immigrant in the US. And you have contributed a lot to your community for years. Plus, you don't have any records of involvement in criminal activities here. Then, years later when you were about to get legal status through citizenship, the US government agency denied your application.

You became shocked thinking why they rejected your application due to moral character issues, as you never did any serious criminal activities here! After that, you find out that a few years ago you provided some false information to get certain immigration benefits. Providing such false information is a serious disqualifying factor and they consider it a bad moral character. But you didn't know it would cause problems, because it's not a serious crime.

So, good moral character- what does it truly mean? And how can it influence getting citizenship approval?

What exactly is a moral Character?

Moral characters are the personality and beliefs of individuals that distinguish one from others. Doing unethical or bad activities is considered as bad moral character. But people with good moral character support and encourage things that are beneficial for society.

What is the importance of good moral character in citizenship application?

People from other countries need to apply for naturalization to become citizens in the US by filling out a form [N-400](#). After applying for citizenship, the government agency USCIS will review your immigration background and personal details thoroughly.

It reflects a person's respect for societal norms and engagement in honesty, punctuality, and support of ethical principles. Immigration authorities seek citizens with strong moral character

because they can bring a positive contribution to the social, cultural, and economic aspects of the country.

Which factors are considered to understand moral character?

Criminal activities do not only mean bad moral character. Some non-criminal factors are also considered as bad moral character. So, when evaluating moral characters, the regulatory body reviews some documents of those candidates based on certain factors.

Immigration Violations

People violate Immigration laws in different ways. Some of them enter here unlawfully, which means they cross the border without proper checking. On the other hand, some H1B or [tourist visa holders](#) stay here illegally after their [visa expires](#). This way people from other countries break the rule, and these are considered Immigration violations.

Criminal record

If the immigrants are involved in any kind of criminal activity or have a previous record of doing this type of incident, they have problems in their moral character. As a consequence, [they may lose their legal status](#).

Fraud or misrepresentation

Some people provide wrong information on the forms about their address or their situation to receive extra support from the government. Similarly, most individuals do fake marriages to get US citizenship early. All of them represent themselves wrongly, so they are considered fraud.

Non-criminal factors

Some factors do not reflect crime. But they negatively express your moral character. Parents who have limited access to their children due to not getting child custody from the court are responsible for paying a certain amount as child support each month. If they do not pay this, it indicates a bad moral character. Similarly, not paying taxes is also a bad behavior.

What is the statutory period? How does it influence getting citizenship?

You have to maintain a positive record of your moral character in a certain period before applying for citizenship. After coming to the US legally, after getting green card or lawful permanent residency, you have to wait five years to get citizenship, this is your statutory period. People who come here by marrying a US citizen, [have to wait 3 years to get citizenship](#). These three years are their statutory period. This waiting period is the most important time to show that you have a good and acceptable moral character.

When reviewing your documents the regulatory authority will observe what you have done in this statutory period. If they find any criminal or noncriminal records that are against the naturalization law, they will reject your citizenship application.

Regulatory restrictions that stop someone from becoming a citizen

If you want to get US citizenship, you must follow some rules and regulations according to the naturalization law. You have to stay within these rules by avoiding actions that go against them. Certain restrictions are lifelong, while others are temporary. So, what types of unethical activities are included in these categories?

Permanent bars (For Serious Crimes)

The barriers that do not allow someone from becoming a citizen and permanently stop them from returning here without trustworthy verification, are considered permanent bars. If you are found guilty of murder or any serious crimes (convicted of an aggravated felony) you will not get permission to become a US citizen. Rather you have to go through the removal proceedings or imprisonment for a specific period.

Conditional bars (For Recent Mistakes)

Barriers that make getting citizenship difficult, but not impossible are considered as conditional bars. For example: If someone is convicted for two or more crimes and received five years of imprisonment, they will face conditional bars.

In simple terms, these offenses can stop you from becoming a citizen for a certain period, but not forever. If the citizenship authorities suspect that you have committed any crime but you are not officially found guilty, they may postpone your citizenship approval for a limited period.

★ **Remember** Even if any offenses do not fall under these two categories, it will still impact your ability to express good moral character. So, always try to keep yourself away from any unethical activities.

Aspects reflecting your good moral characters

How can you say that someone has a good moral character? You have to closely monitor some considerations of their daily life activities. Similarly, the governing authority may also verify your punctuality and performance from your usual work documents to assess your moral character.

Work history and tax payment records

During the investigation, if they find that you have a good reputation in your workplace, it reflects your moral character positively. Besides, your on-time and regular tax payment record also indicates positive things.

Academic attendance records

If you are a student here, your class attendance report will reflect your dedication and sincerity in your academic responsibilities.

Involvement in voluntary work

Doing a lot of voluntary work indicates you have a great passion to work for the well-being of others. It also reflects your interest in community service.

What are the next steps if your citizenship is denied due to moral character issues?

If your citizenship is rejected due to moral character concerns-don't worry! We are here to guide you with the next steps. You just need to follow the instructions carefully.

Breaking boundaries: Navigating the conditional bars

If your citizenship is denied due to conditional or temporary bars, you have to wait five years to reapply. In the meantime, you have to engage in doing good and appreciable work.

Taking oath: Showing affidavit of good character

You should prepare a document showing your good activities with the help of an immigration attorney. This will work as a reference of your good moral character. Everything about your good qualities will be included in this document, such as your voluntary work, the good things you did for your community, and other positive activities.

★ **Bonus Tip:** When reapplying for citizenship, if they ask about your police certificate, you have to submit it. If you are rejected due to any criminal activities, they may ask you about this document. The possibility is high! As it may take some time to get this certification from your country's police station (if you are deported), it will be wise to collect this document earlier before reapplying for citizenship.

What can you do if your citizenship is rejected for permanent bars?

It might seem like obtaining US citizenship is no longer possible at this moment because [you will be deported](#) from here permanently. You will not get so many opportunities to come back. But there are some ways that you can try. So, stay calm, there's no need to worry!

Appealing against a permanent bar

After going back to your country you have to wait up to ten years. You can't apply for a re-entry permit before completing these ten years. Then you can apply to come back here.

Just keep in mind that if you want to return, you must get permission from the US government. So, you have to fill out a [form I-212](#) to apply for permission to come back. During application, you have to show some documents that explain the reasons for your deportation and evidence of your good moral character. So, you must provide some papers and certificates about your personal details, current situation, and family history.

How can you prove that you are a good fit to return here?

You can prove this by showing things like having your family in the US, having difficulty or risk staying outside, or some similar reasons that may prove that you are in big trouble. Providing a recommendation letter from your employer or community leader can also help.

More for you:

[How can military spouses get citizenship faster?](#)

To Sum Up,

If you want to become a US citizen, you must show the regulatory authority that you have been a person with good moral character for the entire time before applying for citizenship. When evaluating your application and other records, if they find something suspicious or any official evidence of your criminal activity, they might reject your application.

So, having a good moral character is very important for every immigrant. Today we have tried to explain the role of good moral character that is responsible for denying citizenship. We have also discussed here the things that will benefit you after this rejection.

If your citizenship application is denied due to such issues, let us know by commenting. And don't forget to share our discussion with those who are not getting citizenship due to moral character issues.

Meta Heading

Citizenship denied due to good moral character? Learn from professionals to overcome moral character concerns and enhance your chances of obtaining citizenship!

