

Questions for Stephen Pidgeon Attorney at Law

1. **How long have you been helping the Slavic Communities?** Since 2006 year.

2. **What are the most frequently asked questions and problems?**

- Can I invite my parents or relatives if I am in asylum pending status? How can I check my status and when will be my interview?
- Can I travel in asylum pending status to Canada or Mexico? Can I comeback home to see my parents or I need to use third country to enter my home country?
- Can you help my relative to get Visitor VISA after being already denied previously?
- Can you help me to write my story for political asylum? **NO**
- If I already received Order of Removal, what if I will marry with USA Citizen?
- Can I bring back my deported son or daughter? In some cases **Yes**

3. **Were there any difficult cases that seemed simply impossible, but did you manage?** Yes, for example deportation cases.

4. **What types of immigration services do you have?**

Most of immigration service like family VISA petitions, Business Immigration, Affirmative Political or defense Asylum, Adjustment of status, applying for Green Card or Naturalization and SB-1 VISA.

5. **What documents should bring to the first meeting at your law office?**

Identity Documents:

- Your passport
- Your national identity card from your home country
- Your Birth Certificate
- Your Green VCard
- Your Naturalization Certificate
- Your driver's License
- You Social Security card
- Your Marriage Certificate

Any Immigration Papers you may have:

- Receipts Notices from USCIS
- Letters from Immigration (USCIS, ICE, Immigration Court)
- Copies of immigration forms you filed or that someone else filed.
- Notice to appear in Immigration Court or Order to Show Cause

- Immigration Court Hearing notice with your court date
- Order of Supervision-if you have to check in with ICE
- Voluntary Departure papers

Additional Documents:

- Your most recent income Tax returns
- Your children's Birth certificates
- Documentation relating to any criminal charges you may have had

6. How will you inform the client if the client is deported to another country, how can you keep in touch?

As soon as our Retainer (Contract) ended, we cannot represent our clients. Ex-client can contact us via e-mail or call through Viber, WhatsApp or Telegram

7. What is the average cost of visiting a lawyer for an asylum interview and is there any benefit from this?

It depends. Usually we are doing case evaluation and supplemental of asylum case. The trip itself from \$500 to \$1,200 depends on travel cost. "A lawyer has a very limited but important role during the asylum interview. Their main duties are to serve as a witness and, if necessary, assist the applicant in correcting inaccuracies. They may ask the applicant questions to help clarify and summarize the story at the end of the interview. As a rule, the employee conducts an interview and makes decisions in accordance with the answers. An attorney must ensure that the interview is conducted professionally by the employee and serves as a support for the applicant. " We can conduct a full analysis of the case, prepare you for an interview at the asylum and correct all the shortcomings so as not to get a negative decision. In addition, submit to the immigration court after refusal.

8. Can citizenship be denied if they use Medicare during pregnancy?

The short answer is that, as long as you received the public benefits lawfully (without using fraud; for example), it **will** not hurt or **affect** your eligibility for **naturalization** in any way. The main reason is that you do not have to show that you are "admissible" to become a naturalized U.S. **citizen**.

9. Can I participate in the Green card lottery (DV) while in the United States, while I am awaiting an asylum interview?

If you receive notification that you have been selected in the DV Program, and you are already in the United States, you may be eligible to "adjust status" to obtain permanent residence through the DV Program. "Adjustment of status" is a process that permits certain qualifying immigrants to change their status from non-immigrant (temporary) to immigrant (permanent) while they are in the United States.

It is important to remember that the option to adjust status in the United States may not be available to all DV Lottery applicants. To apply for a green card without leaving the United States, you must be in lawful status (such as F-1 student, H-1B worker, J-1 visitor, etc.) at the time your visa number becomes available.

However, if you have accrued any unlawful presence (like overstay you VISA and applied for political asylum) in the United States at any time, you may not be able to adjust status in the U.S., even if you currently have lawful status. That may be a complicated issue, and you should consult an experienced U.S. immigration lawyer to find out what options you may have in your specific situation.

10. Is it possible to enter into a marriage with a Green Card holder, to a person from another country?

Yes, but it will be no benefits to anyone who already overstay I-94 legal period or VISA. If you are not a citizen of **the** U.S. and you are about to **marry** a U.S. **green card holder** (**someone** with U.S. lawful permanent residence), you will not gain **the** right to work **in the** United States anytime soon. ... Most spouses of permanent residents find they do not have **the** right to adjust status.

11. How do you explain the arrest in the past when applying for citizenship?

HERE ARE THE TOP 7 REASONS WHY CITIZENSHIP MAY BE DENIED:

- Selective Service. Males between ages 18 and 26 are required to register for Selective Service.
- Fraud before Green card. Very often, Immigration takes a look back at a naturalization applicant's whole history. ...
- Crimes.
- Lying.
- Taxes.
- Child support.
- English.

- For most crimes that make an immigrant either deportable from the U.S. or ineligible for U.S. citizenship, the law requires that the immigrant have actually been convicted (most likely by either pleading guilty or being found guilty in court). However, that's not true of all crimes.

- For example, USCIS can deny citizenship if it has “reason to believe” that you have engaged in drug trafficking or prostitution, or are a habitual drunkard or a drug addict or abuser. An arrest for a related offense may, by itself, give USCIS such grounds for belief. The USCIS examiner would simply decide that you hadn’t shown the good moral character required for citizenship.
- What’s more, a green card holder who, at any time after U.S. admission, has been a drug abuser or addict can be placed into removal proceedings and deported from the United States. No actual court conviction is required under the law. Submitting an application for U.S. citizenship is one way that immigrants unwittingly bring the fact that they are deportable to the attention of the immigration authorities.
- Applicants for Citizenship Must Disclose All Arrests
- In order to apply for U.S. citizenship, you will need to [fill out Form N-400](#), the Application for Naturalization. One of the questions on that form asks whether you have “ever been arrested, cited, or detained by any law enforcement officer (including any and all immigration officials or the U.S. Armed Forces) for any reason.” Another question asks whether you have ever committed a crime or offense for which you were not arrested.
- Clearly, USCIS’s purpose here is to find out more than your court record. The agency wants a full picture of whether you are a person of good moral character. And if the questions didn’t already make this clear, you will need to disclose the arrest even if your case was dismissed.
- It goes without saying that you need to tell the truth on Form N-400. Failure to do so will mean that you are vulnerable, at any time in the future, to being stripped of your U.S. citizenship if the falsehood is discovered. Besides, every applicant for citizenship must undergo a fingerprint check, which means your arrest record will likely be discovered regardless.
- It’s not just lying that could get you in trouble. Not remembering an arrest or telling a different story about it, even if you’re not trying to mislead USCIS, is almost as bad. It’s the USCIS officer’s job to be skeptical, and if what you tell the officer doesn’t match up with the

facts—for whatever reason—you are in danger of having your citizenship denied.

12. What consequences can be expected if the documents requested by the immigration service were sent after a certain deadline?

USCIS issues written notices in the form of a request for evidence (RFE) to request missing initial or additional evidence from applicants or petitioners who filed for immigration benefits.

Failure to Respond to an RFE or NOID.

If an applicant or petitioner does not respond to an RFE or a NOID by the required date, USCIS may:

- Deny the application or petition as abandoned; or
- Deny the application or petition on the record; or
- Deny the application or petition for both reasons.

Failure to Appear for In-Person Processes.

If an applicant or petitioner does not appear for any required in-person process such as an interview or biometrics capture, USCIS shall summarily deny the application as abandoned.

However, USCIS will not deny the application or petition if, by the appointment time, the applicant or petitioner has submitted an address change notification or a rescheduling request, provided that USCIS concludes that the reason for the request justifies the failure to appear.

13. A woman, 69 years old, has already try interview for two times for citizenship, she knows English very poorly. What are her options for obtaining citizenship, if the language she can no longer learn?

Wait until she will be a lawful permanent resident for period at least 15 years at time when she file Form N-400 or she can ask her medical provider for Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions, Form N-648.

14. Is there a statistic, why or for what reasons are applicants denied asylum in the US?

Yes, usually we are receiving trough AILA or USCIS Asylum Division Quarterly Stakeholder meeting

15. What necessary documents must be prepared for each applicant to receive a Green Card?

See list of documents, which DV Lottery winners must prepare....

The documents required for a marriage Green card [vary by situation](#) but generally include the following:

- [Birth certificate](#)
- [Marriage certificate](#)

- [Financial documents](#)
- [Proof of sponsor's U.S. citizenship or permanent residence](#)
- [Proof of lawful U.S. entry and status](#), if applicable
- [Police clearance certificate](#), if applicable
- [Prior-marriage termination papers](#), if applicable
- [Court, police, and prison records](#), if applicable
- [Military records](#), if applicable
- [Immigration violation records](#), if applicable

16. When can an applicant be granted political asylum in the United States?

Usually in 2-6 weeks after interview, If USCIS determine that you are eligible for asylum, you will receive a letter and completed Form I-94, Arrival Departure Record, indicating that you have been granted asylum in the United States.

The grant of asylum includes your spouse and minor children, provided that:

- They were present in the United States
- They were included in your asylum application
- You established a qualifying relationship to them

17. How can our radio listeners contact you and what language do your assistants speak and understand?

Trough office phone (425)347-7513 to schedule initial consultation. We are speak Russian, Ukrainian and English. In addition, we can use translation phone line for other languages.

18. May we have your contact information, phone numbers, or website, please?

Yes, our office phone is (425)347-7513 and our website is www.pidgeonlaw.net, which is on Russian language.