

## **Permanent Resident Card (Alien Registration Receipt Card or “Green Card”)**

Make a photocopy of the front and back of your card. This copy should be clear enough so that anyone looking at it can easily read all information. Also, photocopy your passport information.

### **Red Tape**

Often, government agencies have very formal procedures that don't seem to have an immediately clear reason for existence. In the United States, we call this form of bureaucracy “red tape.” Having to handle red tape can lead to frustration. When you find yourself losing your temper because of red tape, imagine yourself tangled up in miles of red masking tape. This should make you laugh or smile, defusing your anger.

★ **BUREAUCRACY: a system of administration marked by strict adherence to many rules**

## **Assembling Your Application**

Before you assemble your application and mail it, use this checklist to ensure you have all of the required elements:

### **Application Checklist**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cover letter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete Form N-400
- \_\_\_\_\_ One check for \$310.00 payable to the Immigration and Naturalization Service to cover the filing fee of \$260.00 and fingerprint fee of \$50.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Three color photographs, 2" x 2"
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of the front and back of your Permanent Resident Card (green card)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting documents, such as income tax returns
- \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope addressed to the INS Service Center with jurisdiction over your state

Once your application is complete, you should make a photocopy of every page. Keep your copies in a safe place. It is recommended that you use the return receipt option at the post office or a delivery confirmation from express carrier.

### **Where to Send Your Application**

There are four INS Service Centers that accept Form N-400. Where you will send your application depends upon where you currently live. Use the following list to determine where to send your application.

If you live in:

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee
- Texas

You will send your application to:

USINS Texas Service Center  
P.O. Box 851204  
Mesquite, TX 75185-1204

If you live in:

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia (Washington, DC)
- Maine

## **Thanksgiving**

The United States holiday celebrated on the last Thursday in November commemorates the first harvest that the Pilgrims had with the Native Americans in the New World. The original settlers gave thanks for the bountiful food as well as the peace and freedom they enjoyed in their new homeland. Turkey is served as the main course because it is a bird native to North America. Other unique foods include corn and cranberries—new vegetables and fruit found in the New World.

## **The Original Thirteen Colonies**

Massachusetts  
New Hampshire  
Rhode Island  
Connecticut  
New York  
New Jersey  
Pennsylvania  
Delaware  
Maryland  
Virginia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Georgia

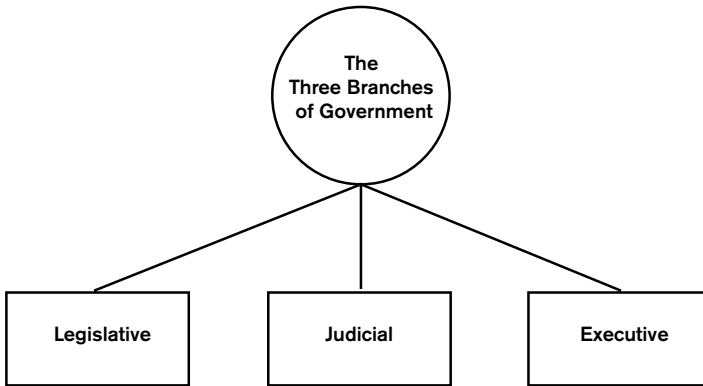
## **Did You Know . . .**

. . . that the first rules regarding the granting of national citizenship into the United States were established by the Act of March 26, 1790. This first federal naturalization law originally laid down two of the most basic and important principles of what would evolve into the modern laws of today—persons eligible for naturalization were required to have lived in the United States for a minimum period of time, and to have displayed a good moral character worthy of being a citizen of the United States.

## ***The United States Constitution***

The Constitution provided for a strong national government divided into three branches, legislative, judicial, and executive.

### **The Three Branches of Government**



#### **Legislative Branch**

- The Legislative branch of the government is called Congress.
- Congress makes the laws in the United States.
- Congress has two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- Members of Congress are voted into office by adult citizens of the United States.
- Congress meets at the Capitol in Washington, DC.
- There are 100 senators in Congress—2 from each state.
- A senator has a term in office of six years.
- There is no limit to how many times a senator can be reelected.
- There are 435 members of the House of Representatives. The number of representatives per state is based on population.