

Becoming A U.S. Citizen:

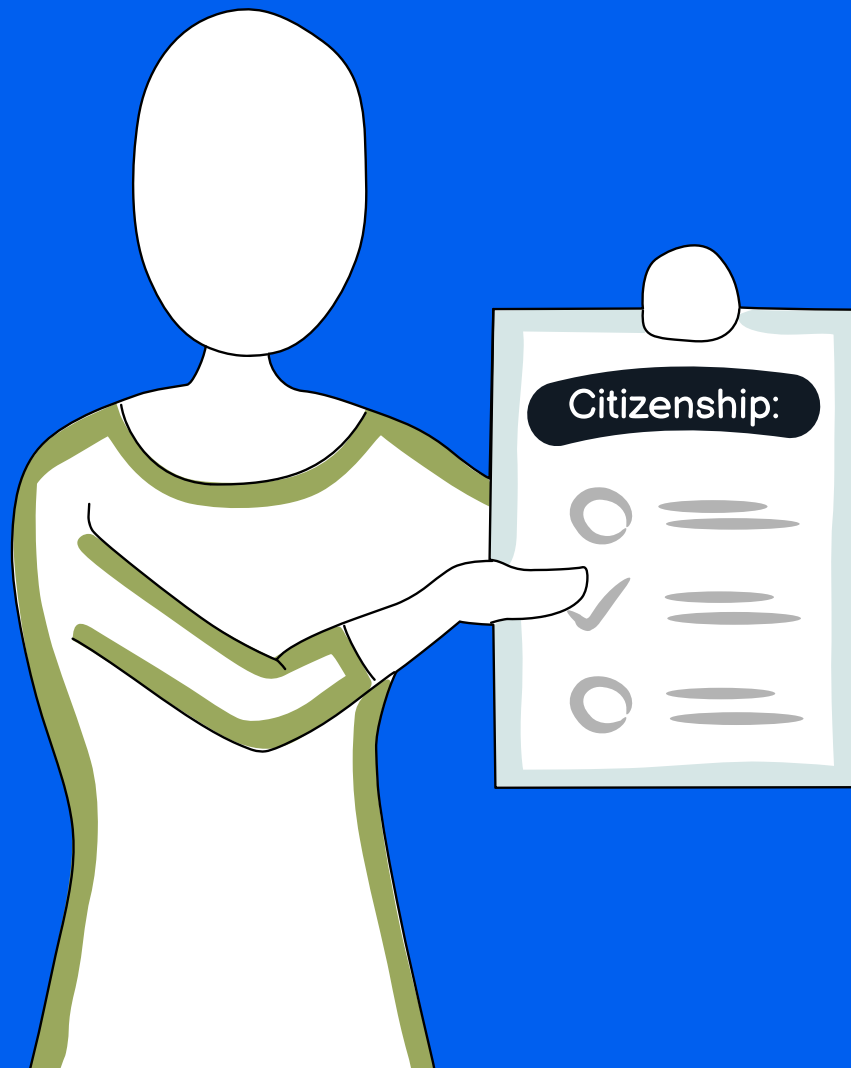
What Is Continuous Residence?



Clearbox helps people become U.S. citizens.

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If you're thinking about U.S. citizenship, you may have heard about **'continuous residence.'**

This is an important requirement for naturalization.

Let's break down exactly what it means.

Continuous residence means that the United States is your true home base.

Basically, you live in the U.S. most of the time, and you do things that show you have an established life within the country, such as having a job and paying taxes.





Wait a minute!

**Does this mean I
can never leave
the country!?**

Don't worry. It's fine
to travel while waiting
to apply for citizenship.

You just need to know
the rules...

The Rules

There are 3 main situations to think about when traveling outside the United States:

Short Trips



Trips under 6 months are generally fine.

They don't break your continuous residence.

Medium Trips



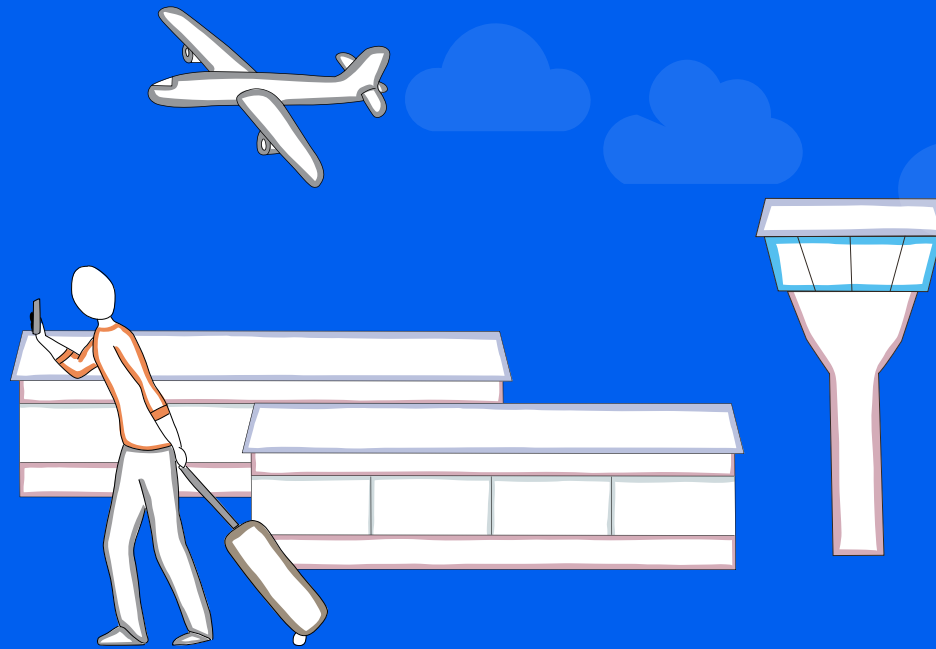
Trips between 6 months & 1 year are complicated.

You must prove that you kept ties to the U.S. during your time away.

Long Trips



Trips outside the U.S. for a year or more automatically break your continuous residence.



Examples

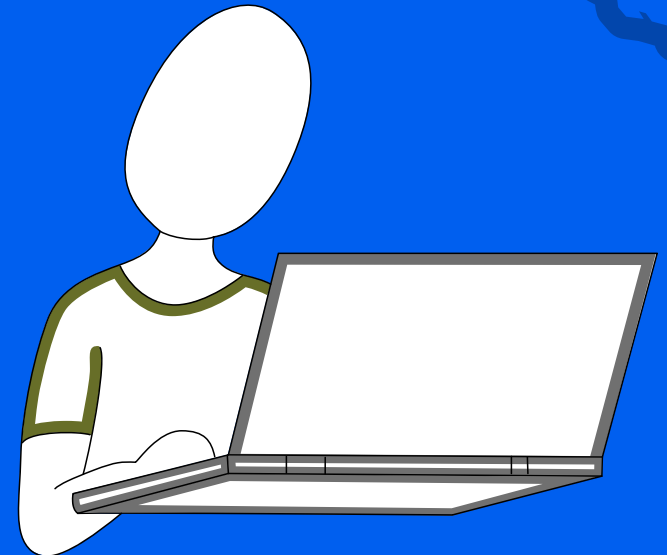
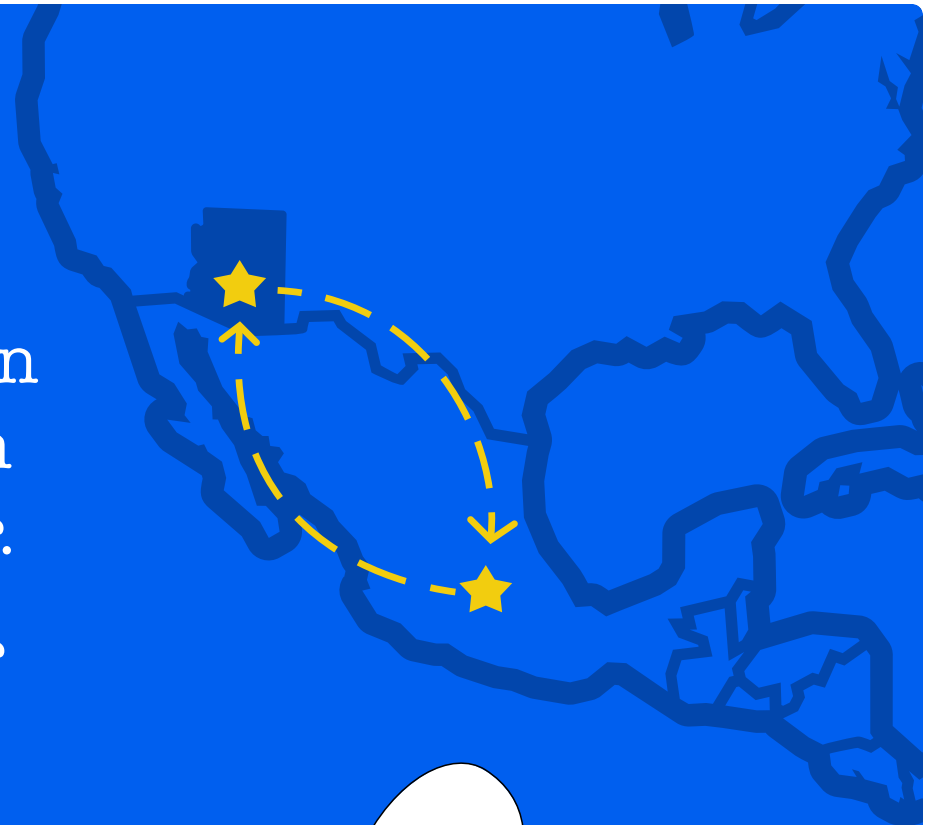
Let's look at some real-world situations that show how continuous residence works...

This is Maria.

She's a software developer in Phoenix who visits family in Mexico several times a year.

Her trips usually last two or three weeks.

Maria clearly maintains her continuous residence because her trips are short and she always returns to her established life in the United States.



Ahmed is a nurse in Chicago.

He needed to spend 8 months in Egypt caring for his seriously ill father.

Even though he was gone for more than 6 months, Ahmed maintained his continuous residence.

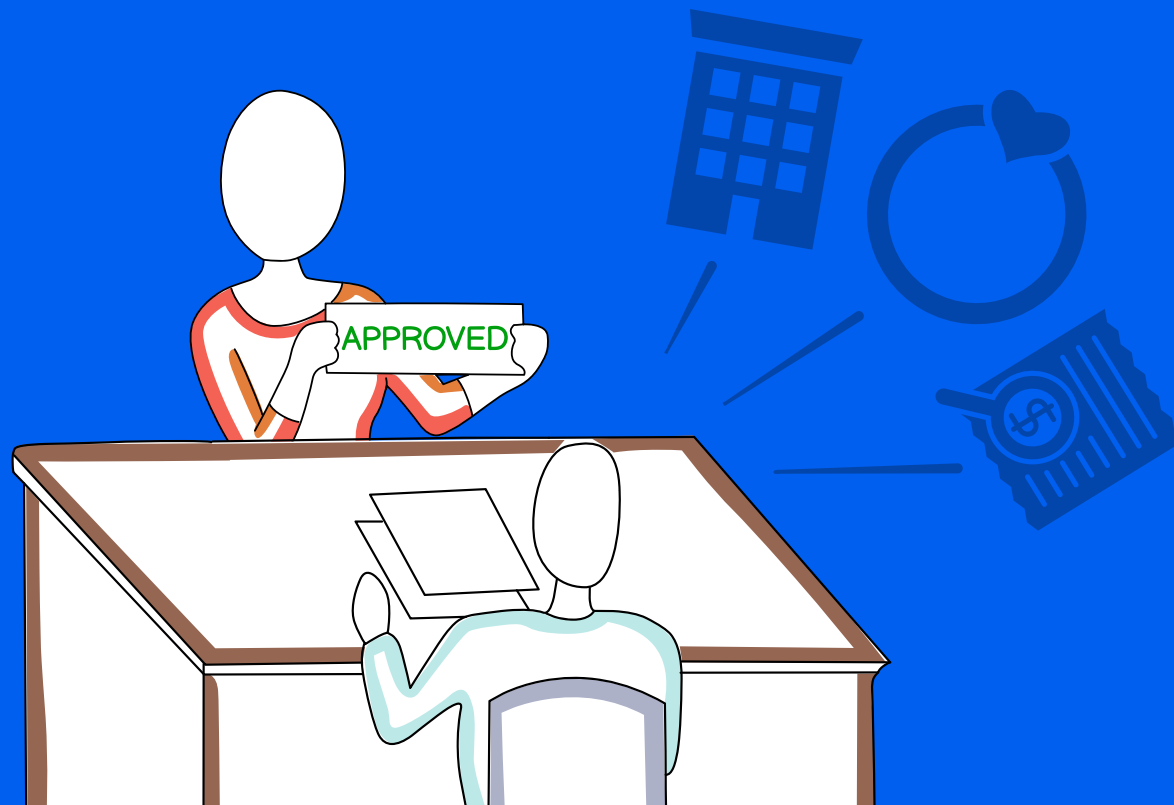
How did he do that?



- He kept his apartment in Chicago and continued paying rent
- His wife stayed in the U.S.
- He took an approved leave from his hospital job rather than quitting
- He kept his U.S. bank accounts active and paid taxes as a U.S. resident
- He returned to the U.S. as soon as alternative care was arranged for his father



When applying for citizenship, Ahmed needed to provide evidence of all these ties, but he had a strong case.



Finally, let's look at Jin's case.

While living in Boston,
Jin accepted an 18-month
contract position in
Singapore...

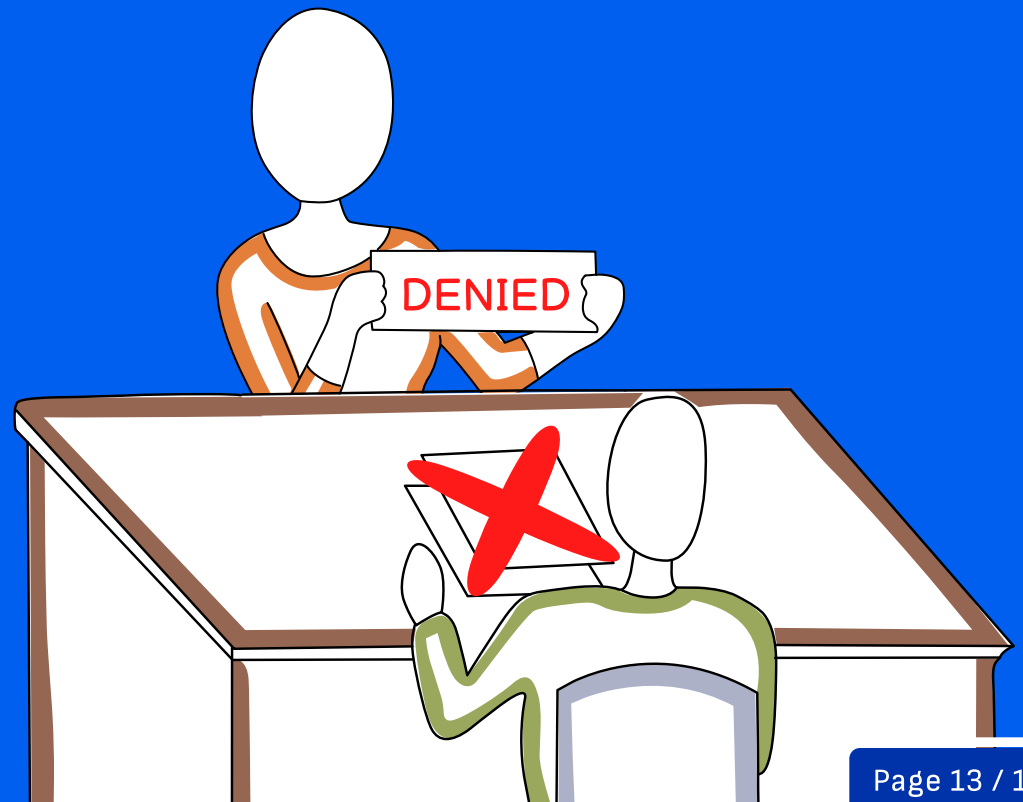


While he was in Singapore, Jin rented out his apartment in Boston, moved his family with him, opened a foreign bank account, and filed his taxes as a non-resident.

This broke Jin's continuous residence in the United States.



Because he was gone for longer than one year and he moved his primary residence abroad, **Jin needs to restart his 5-year continuous residence period** before he can apply for U.S. citizenship.



Wrapping Up

Every case is unique, but here are some things to remember:



Keep detailed records of all your international travel



Document your ties to the United States



If you have a trip longer than 6 months, talk to an immigration professional

By understanding continuous residence and planning your travel carefully, you can stay on track toward your goal of U.S. citizenship.



To learn more about U.S. citizenship, or to apply with the help of an immigration attorney, visit

www.clearboxlegal.com