N400 USCIS New Policy Memo Update: Good Moral Character

eslvideo.com Quiz by: eade

1. Who is giving the update on US naturalization news?

○ a.) Jackie

○ b.) USCIS officer

○ c.) A lawyer

2. What is the main topic of the new policy memo?

○ a.) Changes to the English test

○ b.) Good moral character requirement

○ c.) New citizenship fees

3. What did people mainly worry about in the past regarding good moral character?

○ a.) Minor offenses

○ b.) Serious crimes

○ c.) Community service

4. What new factors may affect your application according to the memo?

○ a.) Only serious crimes

○ b.) Repeated speeding tickets

○ c.) Citizenship fees

5. What is one requirement to become a US citizen?

○ a.) Be a permanent resident for a certain number of years

○ b.) Have a job

○ c.) Speak multiple languages

6. What does GMC stand for?

○ a.) Good moral character

○ b.) General moral conduct

○ c.) Great moral choice

7. What may now count against you in your application?

○ a.) Community service

○ b.) Unpaid taxes

○ c.) Having a job

8. What positive actions can help your application?

○ a.) Ignoring past mistakes

○ b.) Volunteering and community integration

○ c.) Avoiding traffic rules

9. What should you do if you made mistakes in the past?

○ a.) Hide them

○ b.) Show rehabilitation

○ c.) Blame others

10. What is the key message of the update?

○ a.) Avoid trouble at all costs

○ b.) Focus only on major crimes

○ c.) Show how you've grown from your past

Transcript

Hi, I'm Jackie and I'm here to give you the latest US naturalization news. There are big changes coming to the US citizenship process. USCIS just released a new policy memo, and if you're applying for naturalization, you need to pay attention.

In the past, most people only worried about serious crimes when it came to the good moral character requirement. But now, even smaller things like repeated speeding tickets could affect your application.

Let's step back for a second. To become a US citizen, you need to meet a few requirements. You must be a permanent resident for a certain number of years. You must live in the US continuously. You must pass the English and civics tests. And you must show good moral character, also called GMC.

Traditionally, good moral character meant avoiding certain serious crimes. Crimes like aggravated felonies, murder, or genocide automatically blocked you. Other offenses like DUIs, drug violations, or practicing polygamy could cause problems. But if you finished your sentence and followed the law, you often still had a chance.

The new memo, issued on August 15, 2025, changes that. From now on, USCIS officers won't just look at whether you avoided crimes. They'll also look at how you live your life, whether you're a responsible, contributing member of your community.

So, what does that really mean? Officers may now consider repeated traffic tickets even without alcohol or drugs, harassment or aggressive behavior, unpaid taxes, or overdue child support. These may seem small, but they can now count against you.

But here's the good news. USCIS officers will also look at your positive actions, such as volunteering and integrating into your community, family ties and responsibilities such as being a family caretaker, having steady work, paying taxes on time, pursuing education here, and the length of lawful permanent residence. Positive contributions can balance out small mistakes.

And if you made mistakes in the past, you can still show rehabilitation. For example, paying off old debt or back taxes, successfully finishing probation, getting letters of

support from community members, showing that you've made real changes in your life. The key message is don't ignore your past, but show how you've grown from it.

So, what's the big picture? Good moral character has always been required. What's new is that USCIS will now take a closer look at your whole life story, not just major crimes. Even small issues may matter, but you can also use positive actions to prove your character.

If you're applying for citizenship, just don't avoid trouble. Prepare to show the good side of your life, too. I'll keep you updated on these changes, so make sure to subscribe for more US naturalization news.