

MARRIAGE-BASED ADJUSTMENT INTERVIEW

One of the most common reasons for denial of adjustment of status applications based upon marriage to a US citizen the immigration officer's belief that the marriage is fraudulent due to lack of cohabitation. The most important element of a true marriage is cohabitation (living together). Any and all proof of your life together must be brought to the interview. Also, most of the questions at the interview are designed to elicit testimony from both spouses regarding your cohabitation. You must both prove that you live together and have lived together since at least the date of your marriage.

When appearing before an examiner to adjust your status based on a qualifying marriage, you and your spouse may be interviewed separately and asked a series of identical questions to determine if the two of you are actually living together as husband and wife.

The following is a comprehensive list of questions that the attorneys our attorneys have heard asked of their clients in the many years and hundreds of these interviews that they've attended. While this list is as complete as possible, it by no means contains all of the potential questions that may be asked. Also, many of the questions which either you and/or your spouse will be asked are considered leading questions. A *leading question* is one worded so as to elicit particular information or a particular answer and sets the context and stage for subsequent probing questions. The best preparation for this type of interview is simply that you and your spouse actually do live together in the same home. Please call your attorney if you have any questions after receiving this document.

1. What is your current address?
2. What was your prior address?
3. How long have you (your spouse) lived at these addresses?
4. Do you currently own or rent?
5. Who is responsible for paying the mortgage or rent?
6. When is the mortgage or rent due and how is it paid?
7. What is your spouse's full name, including her maiden, and any married and/or hyphenated names they have used now or in the past?
8. What is your spouse's date of birth?
9. What is your 9-digit home telephone number?
10. What is your spouse's 9-digit cellular phone number?
11. What is your spouse's 9-digit work phone number including any extensions?
12. What did you and your spouse have to eat for dinner last night (last Saturday night, etc.)?
13. Who cooked the meal?
14. What did the two of you do after dinner last night?
15. What did you and your spouse eat for breakfast this morning?
16. What is your spouse's favorite meal?
17. Is your spouse right or left-handed?

18. Describe how you and your spouse met. Include the situation and location in which you met. Also provide details as to the date on which you met, who was present, whether it was planned (i.e. date/blind-date) or unexpected (i.e. at the mall/club/church).
19. Describe you and your spouse's first date? Where did you go? Provide the month/day/year if you can recall.
20. How long did you and your spouse date before deciding to get married?
21. Who proposed marriage to the other?
22. Did you or your spouse exchange engagement and/or wedding bands? If so, where were they purchased and by whom? How much did they cost? Describe each ring.
23. Where did your marriage ceremony take place? Who was present? How long did it last?
24. Did you have a reception following the wedding ceremony? Who was present? Where was the reception held? Describe your wedding reception (i.e. Did you have a disc jockey, photographer, florist, etc.?)
25. If you were married civilly, why didn't you have a religious wedding?
26. Where did you sleep on your wedding night?
27. Did you go on a honeymoon? If yes, where did you go and for how long?
28. Do your co-workers (spouse's co-workers) know that you are married, and have they met your spouse?
29. Have either you or your spouse ever been arrested? If so, what were the charges and when did this arrest occur?
30. How many rooms are there in your home? (Be sure you both count rooms the same way) Describe the room, bedspread, window treatments, and carpet.
31. What side of the bed do you (your spouse) sleep on?
32. What size bed do you sleep on?
33. How many bathrooms do you have in your residence? If there is more than one bathroom, which bathroom is the one primarily used by you and your spouse?
34. Does the bathroom have a shower stall or a bathtub/shower combination? Are the tub and/or shower enclosed with a shower curtain or with a glass door? Describe the shower curtain. Does a liner accompany the shower curtain?
35. Do you have a lock on your bedroom door?
36. What side of the closet do you (your spouse) hang your (their) clothes on?
37. How many televisions are there in your home? (Be sure you both count televisions the same way. For example, one may be in a closet because it doesn't work)
38. How many televisions have a remote control?
39. Do you cable or satellite service? Who is your cable/satellite provider?
40. How many stories in your home? (Or, what floor is your apartment on?)
41. How many steps at the front door?
42. How many locks on the front door?
43. Do you and your spouse each have a key to unlock the front door? If so, both keys must be present on your respective key rings at the interview as they may ask to match them up.
44. Take out your wallets. Do you each have a photo of your spouse in your wallet? If so, please take it out.

45. Where is your mailbox located and who usually gets the mail daily? Is your mailbox opened with a key or with a handle?
46. Do you and your spouse have your current address listed on your driver's licenses? (it is pertinent that both of your driver's licenses have the same address, where you currently live)
47. What was the last major purchase made for your home? Who purchased this item? How was this item paid for (cash/check/credit)?
48. What time do you (your spouse) get up in the morning?
49. How does you spouse wake up in the morning? By the use of a radio/alarm clock or using their cellular phone?
50. What time do you (your spouse) usually go to bed at night?
51. What color is your spouse's toothbrush?
52. Have you met your spouse's parents? What are their names? Where do they live? (If you do not recall the exact address, provide the city/state and possible street on which they live) Are either deceased?
53. How many brothers and sisters does your spouse have? What are their names? Have you met them?
54. What do you (your spouse) usually wear to bed at night?
55. Do you (your spouse) have a car? If so, what are the year, make, model, and color?
56. Who is your automobile insurance provider?
57. Who does you and/or your spouse bank with?
58. How many bank accounts do you and/or your spouse have? If separate accounts, describe the reason for this.
59. What color are your checks? What design is on your (your spouse's) check? What color is your checkbook?
60. Where do you do your laundry?
61. Where do you (your spouse) work?
62. What hours do you (your spouse) work?
63. When was your spouse's last day off from work/school?
64. What is the name of your spouse's closest friend?
65. Do you (your spouse) watch sports on television?
66. What is your (your spouse's) favorite sport?
67. What is your (your spouse's) favorite team?
68. When did the two of you take a vacation last?
69. Where did you go?
70. Where did you stay?
71. How did you travel there?
72. How long did you stay?
73. Do you (does your spouse) have allergies to foods, medicines, etc.? If so, what are you (is your spouse) allergic to?
74. Do you or your spouse have any medical conditions? If so, what are they?
75. Do you (your spouse) have any pets? If so, what kind and how many? What are their names?
76. Describe any physical marks, scars, or tattoos that you or your spouse may have?
77. How many telephones do you have in your home, and in what rooms are they located?

78. How did you get to the USCIS Field Office this morning?
79. Who drove to the interview? Who parked the car? What car was used? Where is the car parked?
80. What was the last home cooked meal you had? When was the meal? Who prepared the meal? Who was at the meal with you?
81. When and where did you last eat out together at a restaurant?
82. What gift did you get your spouse (or your spouse got for you) at your spouse's (your) last birthday? Anniversary? Last Christmas? Valentine's Day?
83. When was the last time you and your spouse visited with your parents (your spouse's parents)? What was the occasion?
84. When did you and your spouse last go to a movie theater, and what movie did you see?
85. What was the last video that you (your spouse) rented to watch together, and when did you watch the video?
86. How many DVD and/or VCR players do you have in your home?
87. Do you and/or your spouse belong to any video rental clubs or outlets; and if so, is there one location where you rent most of the videos that you watch?
88. What religion do either you or your spouse practice? How often do you or your spouse attend religious ceremonies?
89. What religious traditions do either you or your spouse practice during the holidays? (i.e. putting up a Christmas tree, lighting the menorah, fasting for lent?)
90. Are you using any form of birth control (what form do you use)?
91. Do you have a medicine cabinet with shelves in your bathroom? Do you and your spouse each use a particular shelf or shelves in the medicine cabinet or do both of you share and combine your things on all of the shelves?
92. How many children do you (your spouse) have? What are their names? What are their ages? What schools do they attend? How do they get to school?

WHAT TO BRING FOR MY INTERVIEW?

Bring your spouse, interview notice, any and all original immigration paperwork related to your case, your unexpired passport, your I-94, birth certificate, marriage certificate, and divorce judgments. Specifically, bring original joint bank account statements, rent receipts, joint income tax returns, evidence of joint health insurance, pictures taken at different times in different places that evidence the wedding ceremony and the existence and stability of your marital relationship, bills with both spouse's names, letters that you've written to each other before marriage, if possible. Of course, if you have had a child(ren) together, bring his/her original birth certificate(s).