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Q. Can you define a U.S. National and the differences from a U.S. citizen?

A. A United States National cannot vote in federal elections no matter where he lives in the United States. All United States citizens vote in federal and local elections except those residing in the territories where no American citizen is permitted to vote until he moved to another jurisdiction. (Exceptions made for those citizens whose permanent residence is one of the 50 States in which case absentee ballot voting is authorized). All male American citizens and nationals are subject to register for the selective service program upon reaching 18 years of age, although the draft has been abolished. In sum, the rights and duties of United States' Nationals may be described as follows:

- (1) Like a citizen, a National is under the jurisdiction of the United States and recognized as such by other nations.
- (2) Like a citizen, Nationals owe permanent allegiance to the United States.
- (3) While in the metropolitan United States, a National does not enjoy the full political rights of the U.S. citizen. Only a citizen may exercise the right to vote or hold political office in Federal and State elections.
- (4) Like a citizen, a National has the right of access to State and Federal courts under the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment which accords equal protection of the law to all persons within the territorial jurisdiction.
- (5) A National does not enjoy the Constitutional rights of citizens to serve on grand or petite juries in the courts of several States of the United States. The qualifications of a juror rests with the States and such qualifications will be upheld as long as there is no discrimination with respect to jury service because of race.