



Family Reunification Webinar

15th April 2021

Doras

- Established in the year 2000 to provide support to asylum seekers living in Direct Provision in the region. Our offices are located in Limerick.
- Our **vision** is a society where equality and respect for the human rights of all people are realised.
- Our **mission** is to achieve this through personal and collaborative advocacy; the law; intercultural dialogue; support, inclusion and empowerment; working at the local, national and international levels.

Applying for Family Reunification

- Who can apply?
- How to apply?
- Supporting documentation?
- Reasons for refusal?
- What to do if granted?
- Covid-19 updates
- Doras Contact Information

1. Who Can Apply

Eligible Sponsors?

- Anyone who has been granted Refugee status or Subsidiary Protection.
- **They must apply within 12 months of receiving their grant letter.**
- example: if you are granted on 31/05/2021 you must apply by 31/05/2022

- Those who are granted permission to remain or have any other stamp 4 permission are not eligible. However, you may be eligible to apply for a long stay visa.

Eligible family members:

- Spouse or civil partner- if the marriage or civil partnership is in existence when the application for international protection is made.
- Children who are aged under 18 and not married
 - Children **MUST** be biological children or *legally adopted*
- IF the sponsor is under 18 they may apply for their parents
- IF the sponsor is under 18 and not married they may apply for siblings who are under 18 and also not married

All other family members are not eligible

Long Stay Visas

Eligible Sponsors?

- Irish citizens earning €40,000 over the three years prior to application.
- Non-eea sponsors (stamp 4 only) earning €30,000 per year for two years prior to application.

Students, asylum seekers, stamp 3, and visitors are not eligible to sponsor applicants.

Those on disability allowance may be exempt from income requirements.

Eligible family members?

- Any family members may be applied for; however, the more tenuous the relationship the more information and supporting documents required.
- For children over the age of 18 a level of dependency on the sponsor must be proven.

How to Apply for Long Stay Visa?

- An online application found on the INIS website must be completed.
- After the application is submitted, a visa summary sheet must be printed and signed by the applicant.

- The visa summary sheet, visa fee, and all supporting documentation must be sent to the corresponding embassy. The address will be on the bottom of the visa summary sheet.

It is strongly advised that you do not begin the online application until you have collected all required documentation.

2. How to Apply?

- A sponsor in Ireland must apply in writing to the Family Reunification Section of Immigration Service Delivery.
- This initial letter should include the following information:
- Copy of Ministerial Decisions Unit letter granting Refugee Status or Subsidiary Protection;
- Copy of Irish Residence Permit;
- Names of all applicants, dates of birth and relationships to sponsor.
- Once you have submitted this information, the Family Reunification Unit will post you the appropriate questionnaire which you must complete and return within 28 days.

3. Supporting documentation?

The following documents are to be submitted for each person named in your application:

- Birth certificate
- National identity card
- Passport
- Two recent colour passport-sized photographs (Write the name, date of birth and date of photograph on the back of each photo).

Please note that originals must be submitted – copies will not be accepted.

We strongly advise you use registered post when sending these documents.

If applying for a spouse or civil partner you will also need:

- Marriage certificate stamped by the relevant authority – if you have been married more than once please provide both or all marriage certificates. Any other evidence, for example, dowry agreement.
- Marriage Book, if you received one – If you have been married more than once please provide both or all marriage books.
- Receipt for any registration fees paid for your marriage (if applicable).
- Documentary evidence of shared resources (including joint bank accounts) if applicable

- Documentary evidence, if any, of money transfers from you to your spouse.
- Documentary evidence of your address at date of your marriage.
- Documentary evidence of your spouse's address at date of your marriage.

If applying for a spouse or civil partner you will also need:

If relevant:

- Your final decree of divorce or nullity;
- Your spouse's final decree of divorce or nullity;
- Death certificate of your previous spouse(s);
- Death certificate of your spouse's previous spouse(s);
- Legal document for Adoption;
- Evidence of Sponsor's current address;
- Original Death Certificate.

The department may request further documentation such as:

- Proof of legal adoption of children
- Letters from other biological parents or guardians allowing children to travel
- Copies of money transfers
- **DNA tests may be requested by the department at any time**
 - If a DNA test is required, the Department uses the company Cellmark in Dublin. There is no fee unless the test comes back negative.

4. Reasons for refusal?

- Absence of required or requested documentation (without explanation)
- Ineligible family members
- Past time-limit to apply
- Marriage after refugee or subsidiary status was granted
- Negative DNA test
- Inconsistent documentation or false or misleading information

If refused there is no appeal process

5. What to do if granted?

- Once granted family members have only 12 months to enter the state
- You must apply for visas for each family member (€60 EACH)
- Visa applications and passports must be sent to DUBLIN
 - The correct address will be on the grant letter

- Once they enter the state must register at either Burgh Quay or local GNIB office

- The Irish Red Cross and IOM operate a travel assistance fund
- If you wish to try and avail of this fund you must apply before making visa applications
- The Irish Red Cross can be contacted on :

Head Office Address: 16 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, D02 XF85, Ireland

General Enquiries: +353 (0)1-642-4600

Email: info@redcross.ie

- The Irish Red Cross a Restoring family links service.
- They can assist in helping to search for family members who may be missing abroad.
- For more information on this service you can access their website on:

<https://www.redcross.ie/programmes-and-services-in-ireland/find-missing-family/>

6. Covid-19 Updates

- Family Reunification unit is still working, however applications and correspondence may be delayed.
- Applicants can email the department on **FRU_IPA@justice.ie**
- Visas for Family Reunification may be deferred once an application is granted.
- Family members may be asked to mandatory hotel quarantine upon arrival.

7. Contact

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