



## INTERVIEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLIENTS

You have been invited to an interview by the Finnish Immigration Service. Please read these instructions carefully: they contain information about your rights and obligations during the interview. If you have any questions about these instructions, you can ask them at the start of your interview from an employee of the Finnish Immigration Service.

### What is the purpose of the interview?

- You have applied for asylum in Finland. The Finnish Immigration Service will not process your application further before investigating which country is responsible for processing your application.
- The purpose of the interview is to investigate whether your application should be processed or ruled inadmissible. Your grounds for asylum will not be investigated at this interview.
- The country in which your application will be processed is determined in accordance with a process laid down in the Dublin Regulation, which is part of EU legislation.
- The Finnish Immigration Service will use the Dublin interview to determine which country is responsible for the processing of your application and whether your application will be processed in Finland.
- Dublin countries include all EU countries, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
- Your application may also be ruled inadmissible if you have been granted international protection in some other EU country. In that case, the Dublin procedure will not be applied. Instead, the interviewer will investigate whether there are reasons to process your application in Finland despite that.

- If you wish to apply for a residence permit based on other grounds, you must submit a separate application and pay the processing fee. Grounds for a residence permit include work and family ties, for example.

## Your rights at interview

- You have the right to bring a legal counsel with you to the interview. You are responsible for acquiring any such legal counsel. The legal counsel decides whether it is necessary for him or her to be present at the interview.
- An interpreter will attend the interview. The interpreter is to objectively interpret everything that is said during the interview. The interpreter will either be present in the interview room, or will interpret by telephone or through a video link.
- The interviewer, interpreter and legal counsel are bound by confidentiality, meaning that they must not disclose anything they hear during the interview to outsiders, not even to your family members.
- As a rule, all documents concerning you are confidential.

## Your obligations at interview

- It is in your interest to tell us truthfully about all factors affecting your application at the interview.
- It is also in your best interest to discuss difficult issues. They may be crucial to your application.
- If you cannot remember, or if you do not know something, do not try to invent an answer. Providing false information will make your story less credible.
- Provide your correct personal information at the interview. You will need a reliable identification document issued by an authority in order to later change the personal information you have provided.
- Providing false personal information is a criminal offence punishable under law.
- Please note that providing false personal or other information, or concealing information, may lead to the cancellation of a permit that has already been issued and complicate any other cases you may have.

## How to prepare for your interview

- Read all the instructions and brochures you have received from authorities before your interview. It is important that you also read our brochures about the Dublin procedure. If you do not have these brochures, you can find them on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service at [migri.fi/en/brochures-and-publications](https://migri.fi/en/brochures-and-publications), under the headline 'Asylum and Dublin procedure'.
- If you want the interpreter to be either female or male, please inform a reception centre employee of this well in advance of your interview. The reception centre will forward your request to the Finnish Immigration Service.

- If your physical or mental health might affect the interview, please notify a reception centre employee of this. With your consent, the reception centre may contact the Finnish Immigration Service concerning the matter before the interview.
- Bring something to eat or money for lunch with you.
- Bring any medication you need during the day with you.
- Bring all documents and evidence related to your application with you.
- Do not bring children with you. If you need someone to look after your child during the interview, please let the reception centre know well in advance.
- Arrive on time. Reserve enough time for travel to the interview. Your reception centre will provide instructions on how to get to the Finnish Immigration Service office.

## **What to do on the day of your interview at the Finnish Immigration Service office**

- When you enter the premises of the Finnish Immigration Service, you may have to go through a security inspection.
- Present your reception centre resident card to a security guard of the Finnish Immigration Service.
- Only people invited to an interview and other people approved in advance by the Finnish Immigration Service are permitted to enter the waiting area.
- If you wish to bring a support person with you, your support person should send a written request to the Finnish Immigration Service in advance. Otherwise, the interviewer will decide at the start of the interview whether your support person is allowed to attend the interview. Your support person is not your legal counsel and will not participate in the investigation of the case.
- Your interview will be conducted by an employee of the Finnish Immigration Service.
- The interviewer will collect you from the waiting area.
- The interview will be recorded. In addition, the room is equipped with a recording security camera.
- If necessary, breaks can be taken during the interview. You may ask for a break any time you wish.

## **What happens during the interview?**

- First, the interviewer will tell you what happens during the interview and make sure that you have understood your rights and obligations. If you do not understand something, please ask. If you do not understand the interpreter, please let the interviewer know.
- The interviewer will ask for the following information:
  - your personal details
  - information about your place of residence in your home country

- information about your family and relatives in your home country and Europe
  - information about residence permits, visas and asylum applications in other countries
  - information about your stay in Europe before entering Finland
  - your travel route to Finland
  - reasons why you should not be turned back to another country
  - reasons why your application should be processed in Finland even if you have been granted international protection in some other country
  - how you would feel about being removed from the country or being prohibited from entering the country.
- Answer all questions truthfully. Do not invent answers. Let the interviewer know if you do not know or cannot remember something.
  - At the end of the interview, the interpreter will read you the transcript that the interviewer has written down. If you notice any mistakes in the transcript, notify the interviewer. You can also make additions to the transcript. The transcript will then be signed and you will receive a copy of it.

## What happens after the interview?

- The Dublin Regulation specifies grounds based on which a specific country is determined to be responsible for the processing of your application. These grounds are: 1) family members in Dublin countries, 2) visa or residence permit in a Dublin country, 3) stay or transit through Dublin countries, 4) an earlier asylum application. The Finnish Immigration Service will assess all these grounds in the order of importance put forward in the Dublin Regulation.
- If you wish to provide additional information at a later date, please do so in writing. We will not discuss your case over the telephone, because we cannot ascertain the identity of callers.
- If necessary, the Finnish Immigration Service may obtain evidence from your home country to verify the validity of your documents. Authorities in your home country will not know about this and the verification process will not cause danger to you or your family.
- The decision in your case will be based on the information provided at the interview and other evidence presented in the case.
- If a decision is made to turn you back to another country, you may appeal against the decision in court. You may also request to stay in Finland until your appeal has been processed.
- If your application is ruled inadmissible, you may be removed from the country and be prohibited from entering Finland and other countries that are party to the Schengen Agreement.