



## ASYLUM INTERVIEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLIENTS

You have been invited to an interview by the Finnish Immigration Service. These instructions provide information about your rights and obligations during the interview. Go through them with your guardian. If something is unclear to you, ask for more information from your guardian or at the start of your interview from an employee of the Finnish Immigration Service.

### What is the purpose of the interview?

- Your family has applied for asylum in Finland. The Finnish Immigration Service will investigate the reasons for why you seek asylum in Finland and why you cannot return to your home country.
- Your guardians will speak in their own asylum interviews about their own and your family's shared reasons for seeking asylum.
- The purpose of this interview is to give you a chance to talk about things that are important to you. If something bad has happened to you or if you are afraid of something, you can talk about it in the interview. It is important that you tell us about everything you know during this meeting. Talk freely and tell things in your own words. If needed, the interviewer may help you by asking questions.

## Your rights and obligations at the interview

- Your guardian will be present at the interview. You will also be interviewed without your guardian present for a short period of time.
- You have the right to bring legal counsel with you to your interview. The legal counsel will participate in the interview at their own discretion.
- An interpreter who speaks your native language will attend the interview. The interpreter will 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 are not allowed to talk about anything they hear during the interview to outsiders. All documents concerning you are also confidential.
- Tell the truth. If you cannot remember, or if you do not know something, do not try to invent an answer. Tell the interviewer that you do not know or cannot remember.
- Give your real name and date of birth at the interview. If you want to change your personal information later, you will need a passport or other official certificate of identity.
- (Persons over the age of 15) Providing false personal information is a criminal offence punishable under the law.

## How to prepare for your interview

- Read through the instructions and brochures you have received from authorities with your guardian before your interview.
- If you want the interpreter to be either female or male, please inform a reception centre employee well in advance of your interview. The reception centre will forward your request to the Finnish Immigration Service.
- If there is something about your health that may affect the interview, tell your guardian or a reception centre employee in advance. With your consent or that of your guardian, the reception centre may contact the Finnish Immigration Service concerning the matter before the interview.

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

- Please arrive on time.
- When you enter the premises of the Finnish Immigration Service, you may have to go through a security inspection.
- If you have a reception centre resident card, present it 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 and your guardian from the waiting area.
- The interview will be recorded. In addition, the room is equipped with a recording security camera.
- We will take breaks as required. You can 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 you to talk about why you had to flee your home country and why you cannot return there. The interviewer may also ask follow-up questions. Answer honestly. Do not invent answers. Let the interviewer know if you do not know or cannot remember something.
- The interviewer will write on a computer what is said during the interview. These notes are called the protocol. At the end of the interview, it is ensured that the interviewer has written everything down correctly. The interpreter will read the protocol to you. If you notice any mistakes, tell the interviewer. After making any corrections, the text will be printed, and the people present at the interview will sign it. A copy of the protocol will be given to your guardian.

## How will the Finnish Immigration Service make the decision?

- Based on your family's application, your family may be granted international protection or residence permits on other grounds.
- The Finnish Immigration Service will make a decision based on information provided by your guardians and other evidence presented in your case. What you have told in your interview will also be taken into account when making the decision.
- If your family's application is rejected, your family may be deported and prohibited from entering Finland and other countries that are party to the Schengen Agreement.
- (Persons over the age of 15) If you have new criteria to apply for asylum after the Finnish Immigration Service's decision concerning your present application has become legally valid, submit a new application promptly. You should have a reason for not telling about the new criteria earlier. The reason should be something that you were unable to affect yourself. The Finnish Immigration Service will then assess whether it will investigate your new application.