Family reunification instructions for quota refugees selected for Finland

Applying for a residence permit based on family ties – summary

Who is a family member under Finnish law?

- spouse or registered partner
- parent or guardian of a child aged under 18
- unmarried child aged under 18.

Who is not a family member under Finnish law?

- adult children (aged over 18) and their family members
- parents of an adult (aged over 18)
- sisters and brothers
- other relatives.

How does a family member apply for a residence permit?

- by submitting an electronic application on Enter Finland (www.enterfinland.fi), after which the family member must visit a Finnish embassy or consulate within three months, OR
- by submitting a paper application, which the family member living abroad hands in personally at a Finnish embassy or consulate.

How much does applying for a residence permit cost?

- The price of an electronic application is EUR 750 for adults and EUR 400 for children.
- The price of a paper application is EUR 800 for adults and EUR 430 for children.

What does the income requirement (requirement for sufficient financial resources) mean?

- A family member may get a residence permit if the family can support itself financially in Finland from the start. The Finnish authorities have decided the amount of money a family needs for this.
- If a quota refugee's family member submits a residence permit application within three months after the sponsor has been told that they are getting a residence permit, this requirement does not apply. Another requirement is that the family had been founded before the sponsor received a residence permit in Finland. The sponsor is the family member who is already living in Finland.
- If the family member living in Finland is under 18 years old and lives in Finland without his or her parent or guardian, the income requirement does not apply.

See the following pages for more information about family reunification.

Applying for a residence permit based on family ties – more information

Who is a family member under Finnish law?

The Finnish Immigration Service makes the decision about giving a residence permit to a refugee's family members or other family relations based on family ties.

In many other countries, people see a family as a much larger unit than in Finland. Family members are defined by law. This definition may be different from what people think of as their families.

Family members are the members of the so-called nuclear family:

- spouse or registered partner
- cohabiting partner under certain conditions
- parent or guardian of a child aged under 18
- unmarried child aged under 18.

Family reunification for spouses and registered partners requires that both of them are at least 21 years old when the residence permit becomes valid. If they have children together, the person who has custody of the child can be granted a residence permit even if he or she is under 21 years of age.

The following relatives, who are not family members, are examples of **other family relations**:

- parents of an adult (who is aged over 18)
- an adult's unmarried brother/sister or adult child (aged over 18)
- a child' sister/brother who lives in another country.

For example, if a person living in Finland has a spouse, the spouse's parents or other relations are not regarded as other family relations.

Residence permits for persons who are not members of the nuclear family

A person who is not a member of the nuclear family may sometimes get a residence permits based on family ties, but it is very rare and unusual. It may be possible if the person is completely dependent on a relative living in Finland, or if the family was very close before and wants to continue living as a family in Finland. However, a residence permit cannot be issued just because the persons lived closely together as a family before. Other factors that will be taken into account are the time the persons have been separated, how they have kept in touch, their family relationship, nuclear family, close relatives in the home country and if the family member living in Finland can support their relative financially. A person cannot get a residence permit just because of health reasons. Even if children traditionally take care of their old parents in the home country, this is not enough to get a residence permit in Finland. The other family relation living in another country cannot choose that the adult child living in Finland should take care of them. It is enough that they have someone to look after them.

Applying for a residence permit based on family ties

A family member or other family relation submits their application for a residence permit based on family ties or other family relationship personally to a Finnish embassy or consulate abroad. A sponsor living in Finland cannot submit the application on behalf of their family member or other family relation. The sponsor is the family member who is already living in Finland.

You can also submit the application digitally in Enter Finland, which is the Finnish Immigration Service's web service, at www.enterfinland.fi. However, the applicant (family member or other family relation) must visit a Finnish embassy or consulate to prove their identity and to provide the biometric identifiers required by law, which include a photo of their face and their fingerprints. The applicant must visit the embassy or consulate within three months of submitting their application. The applicant must have sufficient language skills and computer skills for using the online service.

There is a fee for processing the residence permit application. In 2026, the fee for processing an adult's digital application is EUR 750, and the fee for processing a paper application is EUR 800. The processing fee for a child is EUR 400 for a digital application and EUR 430 for a paper application.

The applicants must provide sufficient information about their identity and their family relationship with the family member who lives in Finland. As a rule, legalised documents are needed. The applicant must have a legal right to live in the state where they submit the application for a residence permit.

Period of residence requirement

If the family was formed after the sponsor was admitted to Finland under the refugee quota, the sponsor has to meet the period of residence requirement. This means that the sponsor is required to have lived in Finland with a residence permit for at least two years before the sponsor or some other family member can apply for a residence permit on the basis of family ties. The period of residence of two years will be calculated from the date on which the sponsor moved to Finland. In individual cases, a derogation may be made from the period of residence requirement if there are exceptionally serious grounds for such a derogation or if it is in the best interest of the child.

Requirement for sufficient financial resources (income requirement)

A family member cannot get a residence permit if the family does not have sufficient financial resources to live in Finland without benefits from society. This means that the family has enough money to live in Finland. The amount of money that a family needs to have has been decided by the authorities. It depends on the size of the family. More information about sufficient financial resources: www.migri.fi/en/income-requirement-for-family-members-of-a-person-who-has-been-granted-international-protection.

For a period of three months, the family members of a quota refugee may apply for a residence permit, even if they do not meet the income requirement, if the family had been founded before the sponsor was admitted to Finland as part of the refugee quota. The period of three months starts from the date on which the sponsor is told about the decision to include them in the refugee quota. Family members may also apply for a residence permit after this three-month period, but in this case they must have enough money to live in Finland. If the family member living in Finland is aged under 18, the requirement of having enough money does not apply.

Other family relations must have enough money to live in Finland when they apply for a residence permit based on family ties.