

Processing of the personal data of persons proposed as quota refugees to Finland

The Finnish Immigration Service processes the personal data of persons proposed as quota refugees to Finland in the Case management system for immigration matters (UMA). This system is an official register that is maintained and used for foreign nationals' residence matters and decision-making, among other things.

The employees of authorities who process your personal data have an obligation to remain silent. This means that they may not give secret information, such as personal data, to outsiders. They always have this obligation, also in their free time and if they stop working for the authority.

The steps described in these instructions concern the processing of positive and negative decisions.

What are personal data?

Personal data include all information concerning a person who has been or can be identified. They are data that can be used to identify a person directly or indirectly, for example by combining individual data with other information that makes it possible to know who the person is. For example, a person can be identified based on their name, personal identity code or special characteristics.

How do authorities use your personal data?

Purpose of processing the data

The UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, has proposed you as a quota refugee to Finland and sent your data to the Finnish Immigration Service. Based on your data, the Finnish Immigration Service seeks to make sure that the requirements laid down in the Aliens Act 301/2004 are met and that Finland can decide if refugee status and right of residence in Finland can be granted to you.

The authorities of the Finnish Immigration Service, Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres), municipalities and wellbeing services counties also use the data to place quota refugees admitted to Finland in municipalities and to make the travel arrangements of refugees as part of their duties under law. (Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration 1386/2010). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Finnish Red Cross (SPR) also use the data to make travel arrangements based on the Finnish Immigration Service's agreements with the IOM and the Finnish Red Cross on services for receiving quota refugees.

The data need to be processed to comply with the controller's legal obligations. The processing is based on Article 6(1)(c) of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Sources of data – where does the Finnish Immigration Service get your personal data?

The Finnish Immigration Service receives personal data and family-related information as well as information about the reasons for which a person has become a refugee, their resettlement needs, any special needs related to the person's circumstances, and their health or family relationships from the UNHCR's personal data forms. In some cases the Finnish Immigration Service also receives certificates or documents, for example those related to the health of persons proposed as quota refugees or the assessment of a child's best interests, and health information documents from the IOM.

Who is allowed to see your personal data?

If you are not selected as a quota refugee for Finland, the Finnish Immigration Service will not give your personal data to anyone.

If you are selected as a quota refugee for Finland, the authorities of the Finnish Immigration Service, the regional ELY Centre, the wellbeing services county and the municipality that receives you have the right to see and process your data that are stored in the Case management system for immigration matters as far as their powers permit. The Finnish Immigration Service also gives data to its partners (the IOM and the Finnish Red Cross) that take part in making travel arrangements. They process the data with their contracting partners when making the travel arrangements.

Can the authorities give your data to anyone outside the EU or EEA?

The Finnish Immigration Service may give your personal data to the IOM under an agreement between the Finnish Immigration Service and the IOM on services for the reception of quota refugees.

How long will your data be stored in the Case management system for immigrant matters?

Data concerning a data subject will be deleted when they are no longer needed and at the latest 10 years after the last entry concerning the person is made. All the deleted data will be archived permanently in a digital format as decided by the National Archives of Finland.

Only persons with special user rights can use the archived data in the Case management system.

You can check your personal data

Right to see your personal data

The Finnish Immigration Service is the controller of the Case management system for immigration matters. You have the right to ask the controller if they are processing your personal data. If the authority processes your personal data, you have the right to see the data. The controller can only stop you from seeing the data in exceptional cases. If you want to check your personal data that are being stored and processed, send your request to do so to an

office of the Finnish Immigration Service, to its Registry at the e-mail address migri@migri.fi, or to the mailing address P.O. Box 10, 00086 Maahanmuuttovirasto.

Right to correct or add to your data

If you notice that some of your data are missing or wrong, you can ask the Finnish Immigration Service to correct them. In this case, you need to tell us which data are wrong and explain why. You also need to tell us how the data should be changed or what should be added to it.

Report concerning personal data processing and right to complain to the supervisory authority

If you want to report a problem with the processing of your personal data, you should first of all contact the controller's representative/data protection officer (see contact details above). You also have the right to complain about the processing of your data to the supervisory authority. In Finland, this supervisory authority is the Data Protection Ombudsman. You can find the website of the Data Protection Ombudsman at www.tietosuoja.fi.