

## **Dublin interview with an unaccompanied minor at the Finnish Immigration Service**

You have been invited to an interview at the Finnish Immigration Service. These instructions explain your rights and obligations during the interview. Go through them together with your representative. If anything is still unclear, ask your representative or the Finnish Immigration Service employee at the start of the interview for more information.

### **What is the purpose of this interview?**

- You have applied for asylum in Finland. The Finnish Immigration Service will not process your application in detail until the country that is responsible for processing your application has been determined.
- At the interview, you will be asked for information that affects the decision of examining your application in Finland, or not processing it. Your grounds for asylum will not be discussed at this interview.
- The country in which your application will be processed is determined by the procedure laid down in the so-called Dublin Regulation, which is part of European Union law.
- Based on the Dublin interview, the Finnish Immigration Service will determine which country is responsible for processing your application and if your application will be examined in Finland.
- The Dublin Regulation countries include all EU countries, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

- Your application may also not be examined if you have already received international protection in another EU country. In this case, the Dublin procedure will not apply to you and the purpose of the interview is to find out any reasons because of which your application should be examined in Finland anyway.
- If you wish to apply for a residence permit on some other grounds, you must submit a separate application, for which you must pay a fee. Such grounds may include family connections.

## **What rights do you have in the interview?**

- Your representative will come to the interview with you.
- You have the right to bring a legal counsel to the interview.
- If you need a counsel, your representative will find one for you for the interview. If your representative does not find a counsel for the interview, we can still go ahead with the interview without a counsel.
- An interpreter will help you at the interview. They will translate everything that is said in the interview without taking sides. The interpreter will either be there in person, or a phone connection or video link can be used for the interpretation.
- The interviewer, interpreter, representative and counsel have a duty of secrecy. This means that they may not tell any outsiders about what we talk about in the interview. The documents concerning you must also be kept secret. We can keep your information secret from your family members if giving the information to them would put you or your loved one at risk or harm you. You can tell us what you think about this in the interview.
- The Finnish Immigration Service can trace, or search for your actual guardian. Your actual guardian means the person who took care of you in your home country. To do this, we will only use the information that is necessary for tracing your guardian. When the Finnish Immigration Service traces your guardian, we will make sure that it will not put you or your loved ones at risk or harm you.

## **What obligations do you have in the interview?**

- It is in your interest to tell the truth about everything that affects your application in the interview.
- It is also in your interest to talk about things that are difficult.
- Tell the truth. If there is something you can't remember or don't know, do not try and make up the answer. You should just tell us that you don't know or can't remember. If you don't tell the truth, this can make it more difficult to believe your story.
- Give your correct name and date of birth in the interview. If you do not have any documents to confirm your identity, you must try your best to get these documents and give them to the Finnish Immigration Service. Examples of such documents are identity documents or a travel document. However, the Finnish Immigration Service cannot make you do anything that would put your safety, or the safety of your loved ones, at risk to get the documents. If you want to change your personal information later, you will need a passport or some other official proof of identity.

- The Finnish Immigration Service saves your personal information and the grounds for your application in the case management system for immigration matters, which is an official register. Giving false information for an official register is a punishable offence. In Finland, persons who are aged 15 or older have criminal liability.
- By law, giving false personal information to an authority is a punishable offence. In Finland, persons who are aged 15 or older have criminal liability.
- Please note that if you give false information, or keep the correct information secret, a permit that has been given to you may be later taken away. It will also make it more difficult to process your other matters.

## How should you prepare for the interview?

- Read the instructions and brochures given to you by the authorities together with your representative before the interview. It is important that you always also read the brochures about the Dublin procedure. If you do not have these brochures, you can find them on the Finnish Immigration Service's website: [migri.fi/en/brochures-and-publications](https://migri.fi/en/brochures-and-publications). You can find them under the heading 'Asylum and the Dublin procedure'.
- If you have a justified reason to ask that the interpreter or interviewer is a man or a woman, tell your representative about this well before the interview. They will inform the Finnish Immigration Service about your wishes. The Finnish Immigration Service will assess if the reason is justified.
- If your health may affect the interview for some reason, tell your representative or a reception centre worker about it in advance.
- The reception centre will make sure that you can get to the interview. You should plan your travel arrangements with the counsellors in good time before the date of the interview.
- You can ask the reception centre to give you a packed lunch or lunch money.
- Bring all medication that you need during the day.
- Also bring all documents and reports for your application.

## What you should do on the day of the interview at the Finnish Immigration Service

- You cannot change the date of the interview without a good reason. If you are sick on the day of the interview, tell your reception centre about it at once. Your representative must send a report given by the nurse or doctor at the reception centre to the Finnish Immigration Service at the latest one week after the date of the interview. If you fail to come to the interview without a justified reason, a decision concerning your application can be made without interviewing you.
- Your representative and counsel will be at the interview with you.
- When you come to the Finnish Immigration Service's premises, a security check may be carried out on you.

- Show the security guard at the Finnish Immigration Service the customer card the reception centre gave you.
- Only the persons invited to the interview, and other persons accepted in advance by the Finnish Immigration Service, can come to the waiting room.
- If you would like to bring a support person, your representative or support person must ask the Finnish Immigration Service about this in writing before the interview. Otherwise, the interviewer will decide at the start of the interview if the support person may be with you. A support person is not a legal counsel, and they do not participate in examining your matters.
- The interviewer works for the Finnish Immigration Service. This employee will either be there in person or interview you via video link.
- The interview will be recorded. There is also a CCTV camera that records video in the room.
- You can take breaks during the interview if you need to. You can ask for a break at any time.

## What happens in the interview?

- The interviewer will first explain what will happen during the interview and make sure that you have understood your rights and obligations. If you do not understand something, ask. If you do not understand the interpreter, say so.
- The interviewer will ask you for the following information:
  - your identity
  - information about your family and relatives in Europe
  - Information about your residence permits, visas and asylum applications in other countries
  - information about where you lived in Europe before you came to Finland
  - your travel route to Finland
  - reasons for why you should not be sent away from Finland ('denied admittance')
  - reasons for why your application should be processed in Finland if you have received international protection in some other country
  - how you feel about being sent away from Finland ('removal from the country') and prevented from coming to Finland ('entry ban')
- The representative or counsel cannot answer the questions for you. They can advise you during the interview and remind you of any important things you have told them earlier.
- In the interview, you can give the Finnish Immigration Service information that may affect the decision in your case. For example, if you are suspected of an offence in Finland, or if you have been convicted of an offence in this country, this may affect the processing of your case at the Finnish Immigration Service. If necessary, the Finnish Immigration Service will give you an opportunity to state your opinion about the matter during the interview.
- The interviewer will use a computer to write down what everyone says during the interview. These notes are called a protocol. At the end of the interview, the interpreter will read the protocol out to you. Tell them if you notice anything wrong in the protocol. You

can also add information to the protocol. After this, the protocol will be signed and your representative will receive a copy of it.

## How does the Finnish Immigration Service make its decision?

- The Dublin Regulation sets out different reasons for why a particular country is responsible for examining your application. These reasons are: 1) family members living in Dublin countries, 2) a visa for or residence permit in Dublin countries, 3) residence in or transit through Dublin countries, or 4) an earlier asylum application. The Finnish Immigration Service will look at all these reasons in the order of importance laid down in the Dublin Regulation.
- The Finnish Immigration Service will make a decision on your matter based on the information you provided in the interview and other documents presented. The Finnish Immigration Service may also use public sources to look for information that supports its decision.
- If you want to give us more information later, give it to your representative or counsel, and they will send it to the Finnish Immigration Service. We will not talk about your case on the phone because we cannot check the caller's identity.
- If a decision is made to send you to another country ('denial of admittance or stay'), you can appeal the decision to the court. You can also ask that the court allows you to stay in Finland until the court has processed your appeal.
- If your application is not examined in Finland, you may be sent away from Finland ('denial of admittance or stay') or told that you cannot come to Finland ('entry ban').