

Asylum interview via video link with an unaccompanied minor

You have been invited to an asylum interview by 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 purpose of the interview is to find out the reasons for why you are applying for asylum in Finland and cannot go back to your home country.
- It is important that you give all the grounds for your application at this interview. If there are new grounds later, or you would like to add new information to your grounds, you must tell the Finnish Immigration Service or the court processing your appeal about them at once.
- Only your asylum application will be discussed during the interview. If you have family members in Finland, you may apply for a residence permit based on family ties. You must submit a separate application, for which you must pay a fee.

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 you a counsel for the interview, the interview can go ahead 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. However, matters you tell us at the interview may have an impact on the processing of your family member's application. In these cases, we will take them into account in your family member's case. However, we can keep information secret from your family member 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?

- You have a duty to explain and provide information about why you have applied for asylum. You should tell us about everything that is related to your application in the interview.
- It is also in your interest to talk about things that are difficult. They may be very important for your application.
- 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 based on which your identity can be considered confirmed, 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.

- Providing false personal information to an authority or giving false information to be entered into an official register 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. 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 worker at the reception centre about it in advance.
- Bring a packed lunch or lunch money with you. If you have a chance to do so, you can also go out for lunch.
- Bring all medication that you need during the day.
- Send any additional information you have to the Finnish Immigration Service before the interview. If only a short time is left before the interview, bring all documents and reports related to your application with you.
- Do not be late for the interview.

What you should do on the day of the interview

- 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 asylum interview without a justified reason, a decision can be made without interviewing you.
- Your representative and counsel will be at the interview with you.
- Only the persons invited to the interview, and other persons accepted by the Finnish Immigration Service in advance, can come to the interview.
- 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.
- The interview will be recorded. There may also be a CCTV camera that records video in the room.
- The interview may take all day. You will have a lunch break and other breaks during the day if you need them. You can ask for a break at any time.
- If necessary, the interview will continue on another day. In this case, you will receive a new invitation to an interview after some time.

What happens at 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.
- If the Finnish Immigration Service does not already have your detailed personal information, the interviewer will first ask about them. They will ask about who is part of your family, where you have lived, and what route you took when you came to Finland. They will also ask you about information that affects the decision about examining your application in Finland, or not processing it.
- They will then ask you to explain why you had to flee your home country and why you cannot go back there. Tell them about what has happened to you honestly and in as much detail as possible.
- The interviewer will ask you more detailed questions concerning the events you have told them about. Answer the questions honestly. Do not make up answers. If you do not know or cannot remember something, tell the interviewer.
- All asylum seekers are asked certain general questions. For example, the interviewer will ask you 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 say your opinion about the matter during the interview.
- The interviewer will use a computer to write down what everyone says at the interview. These notes are called a protocol. The interviewer will review the protocol with you in part or in full if the Finnish Immigration Service considers this necessary. Tell the interviewer if you notice any errors in the protocol. If the interviewer does not check the protocol with you in full during the interview, you will be given a deadline by which you can

make additions or corrections to the protocol. Your representative will receive a copy of the protocol.

How does the Finnish Immigration Service make its decision?

- Based on your application, you may receive international protection, or you may get a residence permit on a discretionary basis on humanitarian grounds or as a victim of human trafficking.
- The Finnish Immigration Service will make a decision on your matter based on the information you provided in the asylum interview and other documents presented. The Finnish Immigration Service may also use public sources to look for information that supports its decision.
- If necessary, the Finnish Immigration Service can contact your home country to find out if the documents you have given are authentic. The authorities in your home country will not hear about it, and there will be no risk to you or your loved ones.
- If the interviewer does not review the protocol with you in full during the interview, you will be given a deadline by which you may submit additions and corrections to the protocol. Give them to your representative or counsel, who will deliver them to the Finnish Immigration Service. You may also submit additional information related to your application after the deadline until you receive a decision on your application. Please note that it may not be possible to take additional information provided after the deadline into consideration in the decision. Provide any additional information in writing.
- If your application is rejected, you may be sent away from Finland ('denied admittance') and prevented from entering Finland and other Schengen countries ('entry ban').
- Promptly inform the authorities of any new criteria to apply for asylum even if your asylum matter is no longer pending. If you do not provide the information or criteria as soon as possible, they may not be considered if you make a subsequent application based on the information. You must have a reason for not giving your new grounds before. This must be a reason that you could not influence yourself. The Finnish Immigration Service will then assess if it will examine your new application.