

Interview with a person receiving protection in the EU, a child applying with their family

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 parent or guardian. If anything is still unclear, ask your parent or guardian or the Finnish Immigration Service employee at the start of the interview for more information.

What is the purpose of this interview?

- Your family has applied for asylum in Finland. 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.
- Your application may not be examined if you have already received international protection in another EU country. In this case, 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 parent or guardian usually comes to the interview with you. The interviewer will also talk to you without them for a short time.
- You have the right to use a legal counsel at the interview. The counsel will participate in the interview in the way they think is best.

- If you need a counsel, your parent or guardian will find one for you for the interview. If your parent or guardian 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 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.

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 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 parent or guardian before the interview.
- If you have a justified reason to ask that the interpreter or interviewer is a man or a woman, tell an employee of the reception centre 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 parent or guardian, or a worker at the reception centre, about it in advance. With your or your guardian's consent, the reception centre may contact the Finnish Immigration Service about this before the interview.

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 guardian or counsel 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.
- When you come to the Finnish Immigration Service's premises, a security check may be carried out on you.
- If you have a customer card given to you by the reception centre, show it to the security guard at the Finnish Immigration Service.
- 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 guardian 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.
- We can take breaks if needed. Tell the interviewer if you want to take a break.

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
 - Information about your residence permits, visas and asylum applications in other countries
 - 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 another country
 - how you feel about being sent away from Finland ('removal from the country') and prevented from coming to Finland ('entry ban')
- 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, you will check that the interviewer has written everything down correctly. The interpreter will read the protocol to you. Tell them if you notice anything wrong in it. After any corrections have been made, the text is printed and signed by those who were at the interview. A copy of the protocol is given to your parent or guardian.

How does the Finnish Immigration Service make its decision?

- The Finnish Immigration Service will make its decision based on the information given by your parent or guardian and other documents presented in the case. What you say in the interview also matters for the decision.
- If your application is not examined, your family may be sent away from Finland ('denial of admittance or stay') or told that you cannot come to Finland ('entry ban').