

Interview with a person receiving protection in the EU at the Finnish Immigration Service

You have been invited to an interview at the Finnish Immigration Service. Please read carefully these instructions which explain your rights and obligations during the interview. If you have any questions about these instructions, you can ask an employee of the Finnish Immigration Service at the beginning of the interview for more information.

What is the purpose of this interview?

- You have applied for asylum in Finland. At the interview, you will be asked for information that affects the decision of examining your application 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. This means finding out about the reason for why your application should still be examined in Finland or for why you should be granted a residence permit in Finland on a discretionary basis on humanitarian grounds or because you have become a victim of trafficking in human beings.
- 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?

- You have the right to bring a legal counsel to the interview. The counsel will participate in the interview in the way they think is best.

- You must find the counsel yourself. If you do not get a counsel for the interview, we can still go ahead with the interview without a counsel.
- There will be an interpreter at the interview. The interpreter's job is to impartially translate everything that is said in the interview. 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. We can keep your information secret from your family members if giving the information to them would put you at risk or harm you. You can tell us what you think about this in the interview.
- As a rule, the documents concerning you must be kept secret.

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.
- If there is something you can't remember or don't know, do not try and make up the answer. If you give false information, this makes it more difficult to believe your story.
- You should give your correct personal information 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. You can change the personal data you provide later only if you have a reliable identity document issued by an authority.
- 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.
- By law, giving false personal information to an authority is a punishable offence.
- 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?

- Before the interview, read all the instructions and brochures the authorities have given you.
- If you have a justified reason to ask that the interpreter or interviewer is a woman or a man, tell an employee of the reception centre about this well before the interview. The reception centre will send your request to the Finnish Immigration Service. The Finnish Immigration Service will assess if the reason is justified.
- If your physical or mental health may affect the conduct of the interview, tell a reception centre employee about it. With your consent, the reception centre may contact the Finnish Immigration Service about this before the interview.
- You can bring a packed lunch or lunch money with you.
- Bring all medication that you need during the day.
- Also bring all documents and reports for your application.
- Do not bring any children with you. If you need somebody to look after your child during the interview, tell the reception centre about this well before the day of the interview.
- Do not be late for the interview. Make sure you have enough time for the trip. The reception centre will tell you how to get to the Finnish Immigration Service.

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. You 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.
- 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, you or your 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
 - 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')
- Answer the questions honestly. Do not make up answers. If you do not know or cannot remember something, tell the interviewer.
- 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.
- At the end, the interpreter will read you the protocol written by the interviewer. If you notice any mistakes in it, tell the interviewer. You can also add information to the protocol. After this, the protocol will be signed and you will receive a copy of it.

What happens after the interview?

- If you would like to give us more information later, you can do it in writing. We will not talk about your case on the phone because we cannot check the caller's identity.
- 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 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, you may be sent away from Finland ('denial of admittance or stay') or told that you cannot come to Finland ('entry ban').
- If your application is not examined or you withdraw it, you have a right to apply for support for voluntary return. This support is provided on certain conditions, which will be checked when you apply for it. Ask for more information at your reception centre or see the contact information of assistance for voluntary return on the Finnish Immigration Service's website at <https://migri.fi/en/return>.