

Instructions for children who have been granted asylum and want their family to come to Finland

These instructions describe how your family member can apply for a residence permit in Finland. The instructions apply to you if:

- you were under the age of 18 when you applied for asylum in Finland and
- you came to Finland without your parent or guardian
- you have been granted asylum

Your guardian is your family member

The law of Finland specifies which family members of yours are eligible for a residence permit in Finland. If you are aged under 18, your guardians are your family members.

Usually, a child's guardian is their father, mother or both. The guardian is the person who decides on your official matters and takes care of you in practice. In exceptional situations, the guardian may also be another person. In this case, the relationship with the guardian must be proven with reliable documentary evidence.

Your parents or guardians may apply for a residence permit in Finland on the grounds that you have a residence permit in Finland.

Your siblings are other family relations

Under the law of Finland, your siblings are not considered your family members. They are designated as other family relations.

If your siblings under the age of 18 apply for a residence permit at the same time as your parent or guardian, they may apply for a residence permit using the child's application form. Siblings aged over 18 may apply for a residence permit using the application form for other family relations.

If your siblings apply for a residence permit at a different time than your parent or guardian, they may apply for a residence permit using the application form for other family relations.

If you want your other family relation to come to Finland

Your other family relation may receive a residence permit if:

- you have previously been spending close family life together and intend to continue it in Finland, or
- your other family relation is completely dependent on you.

A precondition for being granted the permit is that a negative decision would be unreasonable in the situation of your family relation.

Economic dependence alone is not enough. The person may be dependent on you due to, for example, a severe illness or disability. If your family member needs treatment and can receive treatment in their home country, they are not usually granted a residence permit.

Close family life means that there has never been an interruption to your family life for reasons such as the members reaching adulthood or starting families of their own.

Condition concerning your minority

Whether your parent or guardian is granted a residence permit depends on your age and whether you have come to Finland alone or with one of your parents or guardians.

If you have come to Finland with one of your parents or guardians, you must be under the age of 18 at the time your parent or guardian applies for a residence permit.

If you have arrived in Finland without a parent or guardian, you must have been under the age of 18 on the day you submitted the asylum application for which you were granted asylum.

If you have turned 18 after submitting your asylum application, your parent or guardian must apply for a residence permit within 3 months of being notified that you were granted asylum. Exceptions may be granted in individual cases if there is an exceptionally compelling reason.

- If your parent or guardian only applies for a residence permit in Finland after the three-month period, they usually fall under the designation of other family relations and must meet the requirements set for other family relations.
- The requirement for sufficient financial resources also depends on whether your parent or guardian has filed the application within 3 months of your receiving the asylum decision.

Requirement for sufficient financial resources

Sufficient financial resources means that you and your family members have enough money to live in Finland. Sufficient financial resources can be ensured through, for example, earned income or business income. Sufficient financial resources may not be based solely on benefits paid by society.

Your parent or guardian is not required to have sufficient financial resources in the following situations:

- You are under 18 years of age and live in Finland without your parent or guardian.
- You have reached the age of 18 and
 - your family was formed before you came to Finland and
 - the residence permit application on the basis of family ties was submitted within 3 months of when you received notification of being granted asylum and family reunification is not possible outside Finland.

If your other family relation applies for a residence permit, you must have sufficient financial resources.

Exceptions to the requirement for sufficient financial resources may be granted if there is an exceptionally compelling reason or if it is required in the best interests of the child. Your family member must provide justifications for this in the application.

When do we consider that the application has been submitted within 3 months?

If your family member applies for a residence permit in the Enter Finland service

The application was lodged in time if it was submitted using the Enter Finland service within 3 months of the date on which you were notified of the decision on asylum.

If your family member applies with a paper application

Your family member must book an appointment with a Finnish embassy or consulate or a VFS Global application centre within 3 months of when you were notified of the decision on asylum.

If your family member is unable to book a time for lodging an application before the expiry of the period due to a lack of available appointments in the embassy or consulate, they can still apply for a residence permit. In this case, they must use the first available time at the embassy or consulate for lodging the application.

If the delay in lodging the application is not caused by the Finnish authorities, the three-month deadline generally cannot be waived. In their application, your family member may explain the reasons for the delay.

Applying for a residence permit

The finlandabroad.fi website of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs contains information on where your family member can lodge a paper application, prove their identity and book an appointment for this purpose. The Finnish Immigration Service cannot influence where and when your family member can lodge an application.

Your family member must apply for the first residence permit before arriving in Finland. If possible, they should submit their application using the Enter Finland service. If your family member is unable to use the Enter Finland service, they may lodge their application on paper at an embassy or consulate or at a VFS Global application centre.

If your family member applies for a residence permit in the Enter Finland service, they must then book an appointment at a Finnish embassy or consulate or a VFS Global application centre to prove their identity.

When booking their appointment, they must provide the following information:

- the full names, exact dates of birth and nationality of all the family members applying at the same time
- your name, date of birth, nationality and Finnish Immigration Service customer number. You can find your customer number on your residence permit card.

Your family member should start the preparations for applying for a residence permit as soon as you have been granted asylum. For example, they may need a visa to travel to an embassy or consulate or a VFS Global application centre. Everyone applying for a residence permit, including minors, must visit the place in person. Your family member must ensure that they lodge their application in time.

The family member's residence permit application is subject to a fee.

Read more about applying for a residence permit on the Finnish Immigration Service's website

For more information, visit migri.fi, particularly the following pages:

- Residence permit application for a guardian: migri.fi/en/child-in-finland-as-a-refugee
- Residence permit application for other family members: migri.fi/en/my-relative-has-been-granted-international-protection
- Residence permit application for a child: migri.fi/en/guardian-in-finland-as-a-refugee
- Requirements for sufficient financial resources: migri.fi/en/income-requirement-for-family-members-of-a-person-who-has-been-granted-international-protection.
- Income thresholds: migri.fi/en/income-requirement-for-family-members-of-a-person-who-has-been-granted-a-residence-permit-in-finland