

Family reunification in Ireland

If you have been granted refugee status, subsidiary protection or programme-refugee status in Ireland, you may apply to bring eligible family members to live with you. This guide explains the process.

Who can be sponsored

- Your spouse or civil partner (the relationship must pre-date your protection application).
- Your unmarried children under 18 years of age.
- If you are under 18 and unmarried, your parents and their unmarried minor children.

When to apply

- You must submit the application within 12 months of being granted protection status.
- Late applications are normally refused. If circumstances delayed you, explain them clearly with evidence.

How to apply

- Apply in writing to the Family Reunification Unit, Department of Justice, 13–14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2.
- Include certified copies of birth, marriage or civil partnership certificates.
- Include certified translations (English or Irish) of any document not in those languages.
- Provide proof of identity for each family member (passport, national ID).

Supporting evidence

- Proof of relationship: family photographs, communications, remittance records.
- Your own protection grant letter and IRP (Irish Residence Permit).
- Evidence that you can support your family (payslips, social welfare statements, accommodation details) — where required.

After submission

- The Minister for Justice investigates and issues a decision. Processing typically takes 12 months or more.
- If approved, your family members apply for a join-family visa or pre-clearance at the Irish Embassy or Consulate nearest to them.
- On arrival in Ireland they register with immigration and receive permission to reside.

Key contacts

- Family Reunification Unit, Department of Justice — +353 1 408 5000
- Irish Refugee Council Family Reunification Service — +353 1 764 5854
- Nasc Migrant & Refugee Rights Centre — +353 21 450 3462
- CCI Legal & Immigration Desk — +353 (0)1 000 0001

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