

Family Reunification for beneficiaries of international protection in France

EMN France

SUBMISSION, PROCESSING AND EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

➤ Eligible statuses

- Refugee status;
- Subsidiary protection status;
- Stateless persons.

➤ Eligible family members

- **Spouse or partner**, who is at least 18 years old, and with whom they entered into marriage or civil union before the submission of the application for protection;
- **Partner**, who is at least 18 years old, and with whom they shared a sufficient stable and continuous relationship before the date of applying for asylum;
- **The couple's unmarried children** who are under 19 years of age;
- **The children of either spouse from previous relationships** who are under 18 years old;
- BIP who are **unmarried minors**.

➤ Submission by the family member

- Family members of a BIP apply for an entry visa to enter France for a stay exceeding three months from the diplomatic and consular authorities.



SUBMISSION, PROCESSING AND EXAMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

➤ **Appointment at the diplomatic or consular post**

- Fingerprints and visa fees;
- One visa application form per person;
- Valid travel documents;
- Two passport photographs meeting European standards;
- Copy of the letter from the OFPRA and/or the decision of the National Court for the Right of Asylum, confirming the granting of protection or a copy of the residence permit indicating the refugee or subsidiary protection status of the BIP;
- Full copy of birth and/or marriage certificate establishing their family relationship with the visa applicant;
- 99€ in the local currency per person.

➤ **Alternative ways of application submission**

- Granting of visas solely to foreign nationals who reside within their consular district. However, exceptions can be made for foreign nationals who can demonstrate unforeseen and compelling reasons preventing them from applying in their usual consular district.

➤ **Submission starting point and time limit to issue a decision**

- The examination of the application only begins when the visa application file is submitted to the consular post and is deemed complete, after the biometric data collection and payment of visa fees.
- Family members can apply for a visa as soon as the BIP has been granted protection status in France.
- In case of a favourable decision, a visa sticker is placed on the travel document. This sticker is valid for three months and enables family members to travel to France to obtain a residence permit from the prefectural authorities.



DOCUMENTATION

➤ **Proof of family ties**

- Family members of BIP may provide proof of their identity, civil status, and family ties **by any means**.
- If there is no civil status record available or if there are doubts about their authenticity, the **elements of possession of status**, and documents issued or authenticated by the OFPRA may be used.
- Possession of status=the sufficient gathering of facts revealing the bond of filiation and kinship between a person and the family to which filiation and kinship between a person and the family to which they are said to belong.

➤ **Proof of accommodation, sickness insurance, and stable and regular resources**

- No requirements regarding financial resources, accommodation, or duration of residency in France for this family reunification scheme.



FAMILY REUNIFICATION WITH CHILDREN

- **Timeframe for the parent sponsor to lodge an application with a minor turning 19**
 - The BIP has the right to be joined by their **unmarried children who are under 19 years old**.
 - The **age** of the children is **assessed as of the date of the family reunification application**.
 - **Exception:** when child turns 19 between the parent's application for asylum and the grant of protection status.

- **Age threshold for dependent adult children**
 - Unmarried children of the couple under the age of 19 or children of the sponsor or their spouse from previous relationships under the age of 18, are eligible to apply for family reunification.

- **Family reunification for unaccompanied minors coming of age during the international protection procedure**
 - BIP who are minors may be joined by their **direct ascendants** accompanied, where applicable, by **their siblings**, from the moment protection is granted until they reach adulthood.
 - If a minor BIP comes of age after submitting their asylum application but before obtaining protected status, their family members must submit the visa application within three months of the protection being granted.

- **Interpretation of the concept 'Real family relationship'**
 - The authenticity of family ties is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, adhering to the principle of status possession.



Some figures

➤ Significant increase in the number of visas issued to family members of BIP, or stateless persons under family reunification

- 2022: +16%
- 2022: +127% compared to 2019

➤ Nationalities

Afghan nationals overwhelmingly lead the top 10 beneficiary nationalities in 2022 and 2023.

Afghan	4 165
Turkish	1 761
Somali	940
Congolese (Kinshasa)	837
Guinean	614
Bangladeshi	519
Ivorian	403
Sudanese	386
Chinese	366
Eritrean	308