

## **FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROCESS**

### **What is family reunification?**

Family reunification allows family living outside Ireland reunify with their family members in Ireland thus facilitating the maintenance of the family unit.

If you are granted refugee or subsidiary protection status in Ireland you may apply to the Minister of Justice and Equality (i.e. the Minister) for permission for certain members of your family to either enter and reside with you in Ireland provided you do so within a 12 month period. If they meet the criteria and family members already reside in Ireland they may be able to remain and reside with you here

Your case will be investigated and a decision by the Minister will be made. A family member shall then be given permission to reside in Ireland for a specified period of not less than 1 year, and in the case of renewal, of not less than 2 years.

### **Who is defined as a family member for the purposes of family reunification?**

If you are applying for family reunification as an adult, you are permitted to apply for the following family members:

- (i) your spouse or civil partner, providing the marriage or civil partnership was in force when you applied for international protection;
- (ii) (ii) your child, as long as they are under the age of 18 and unmarried at the time you applied for international protection.

If you are a child applying for family reunification, you are permitted to apply for the following family members:

- (i) Your parents and your brothers and sisters provided they are under the age of 18 and unmarried. Your family is defined as of the time you apply for family reunification.

### **How can I apply for family reunification?**

You can apply for family reunification in writing once you have received confirmation from the Irish authorities that you have refugee or subsidiary protection status. You must do this in writing within 12 months of receiving your declaration from the Minister.



You can complete and submit an application and the Family Reunification Unit will investigate your application and provide you with a letter once the investigations are complete. If your family reunification is approved you will receive a letter granting permission which contain a date by which you family members must enter the State. It is important that you arrange their travel before that date as if your family member(s) does not enter Ireland before or on that date, then the family reunification permission ceases to be in force.

If you have “leave to remain” in Ireland, you are not automatically entitled to family reunification for your family to join you. A person granted permission to remain may apply for family reunification through regular immigration procedures; however, different criteria and considerations will apply.

You can send your application for family reunification to:

Family Reunification Unit,  
Immigration Service Delivery,  
Department of Justice,  
13/14 Burgh Quay,  
Dublin 2, D02 XK70.

Further information can be found on the Immigration Service Delivery website: [Home - Immigration Service Delivery \(irishimmigration.ie\)](https://www.irishimmigration.ie)