

# FAMILY REUNIFICATION FOR REFUGEES

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[www.refugeeswelcome.dk](http://www.refugeeswelcome.dk)

## 1. Which form should you fill out?

- For a spouse to a person who has asylum in Denmark: FA10
- For child of a parent who has asylum and *also applies* for the other parent: FA11
- For child of a parent who has asylum and *is not applying* for the other parent: FA12
- For other family members / special reasons: SG1<sup>1</sup>
- For parents and siblings to an unaccompanied minor with residence permit: SG2

1) You can apply to bring parents to an adult or siblings above 18 years to Denmark, but the chance is very small. Usually it will only happen if the person is sick and totally dependent on the resident, and the persons have been living together up until the departure.

### Abbreviations:

IS: Immigration Service / FR: Family Reunification

## 2. When can you apply?

You can apply as soon as you get asylum if it is granted under §7(1), §7(2) or §8. But if you have asylum on §7(3) it is not allowed to bring your family here until you had your permit extended and have in total 3 years of legal stay in Denmark. You can ask dispensation from this, but it is very rarely given, and only if family members are very sick or disabled and are in acute need of treatment or care.

Unaccompanied minors with a permit under §7(3) do not have to wait for 3 years to bring parents and younger siblings. They should apply right away.

It is important to apply *as soon as possible* – for both spouse and children!

Get hold of the necessary documents and have them translated even before you get asylum, that will save you time in the other end.

After you applied: IS will send letters to you in "e-Boks", remember to check it!

## 3. How to fill out the form?

### SPOUSE (form FA10):

The form must be filled out **on paper**. The digital solution cannot be used here. You can find the forms on [newtodenmark.dk](http://newtodenmark.dk) under Family Reunification / How to apply from where you can print them out. They are in Danish or English.

The form consists of two parts:

**Part 1** is filled out and signed<sup>2</sup> by the person who is applying for residence in Denmark (applicant).

**Part 2** is filled out and signed by the person who already has residence permit in Denmark (reference).

Keep the two parts separate and write the first name of each person on the front page, you can easily get them mixed up!

Read and fill out everything carefully. Also remember to put the date and place every time you sign.

2) If an applicant is in Syria, Eritrea or Somalia, the spouse can sign for him/her. But always sign with your own name (see [note A](#)).

### About filling out part 1 / applicant (FA10):

*Question 2:* Attach a copy of the applicant's passport (all pages) if he/she has one. If not, and he/she can't get one, attach a copy of another kind of ID and explain why he/she can't get a passport.

*Questions 3 og 7:* If you and your spouse are related, even remotely, your marriage will be dismissed as 'forced', and you will get a rejection unless you can prove that the marriage was voluntary. Therefore you must answer very carefully and in detail (note that the asylum case will be compared, and untruthful information will be prosecuted as fraud). A marriage will not be recognized if both persons were not present at the wedding, and if both have not signed the document. Furthermore, both persons must have been over 15 years at the time of the marriage (but if the country where it took place has a higher age limit, this must be respected). The authorities may also dismiss the marriage as pro forma, if the persons had very little contact before the marriage.\* If you have problems with any of this, explain why from the beginning.

*Question 9:* If the applicant is in another country than the home country, you must write this under "Other information". Does he/she hold a residence permit in that country? If so, for how long, and can it be extended? Attach documentation.

*Remember* to inform IS if the applicant travels to another country during the process. It is possible to have the permit sent to a different embassy/consulate than the one you applied to. There is a list of representations at [www.um.dk](http://www.um.dk)

## About filling out part 2 / reference (FA10):

*Question 1:* See first page, part 1, questions 3 and 7.

*Questions 7 and 9* don't need to be answered when the reference is a refugee.

*Question 8 + Attachment 1:* Refugees are not required to support themselves and their spouse. But you must sign, whether you are married or not. If your marriage is not recognized, but you may be granted FR because of cohabitation\*, you will be asked to sign. The municipality later decides which benefits you are entitled to.

### Attachments, spouses:

- Clear, readable colour copy and authorized translation of marriage certificate to Danish or English (for Syrians and Eritreans, both the civil and the religious one are needed).
- Declaration on economic support (see above, Attachment 1)\*
- Copy of applicant's passport, all pages including cover (if applicant does not have one explain why and attach a copy of another kind of photo-ID)
- Documentation for cohabitation, if you are not married\*. For instance lease, letters received at the same address, statement from landlord or similar.
- If obtained, diploma for passed exam in Danish level A1.
- If you are missing a document, explain why you are not able to get it.

### CHILDREN (form FA11 or FA12):

The form consists of two parts:

**Part 1** for the child who applies for a residence permit (applicant)

**Part 2** for the parent who has asylum in Denmark (reference)

One form has to be filled out for each child!

If the parent who has asylum in Denmark has full or shared custody of the child, this parent can fill out both parts of the form.

Children under 15 cannot sign, so the parent who has the custody must sign part 1. Children over 15 are asked to sign together with the parent.

*Part 1, question 2, last:* Tick off NO to "residence card", as this will mean the child has to give fingerprints and take photo before arriving to Denmark. You can always get the card later. Instead, attach 2 passport photos of the child.

*Part 2:* If you were granted asylum recently, you don't have to answer question 3 (FA11) or questions 2-6 (FA12).

*Question 9:* In some cases a DNA test of the child and the parents will be required. IS will send a letter about this, where they will tell you where the test can be made. Always tick off the boxes for consent to make sure this will not slow down the case later.

*Form FA12, Attachment 1 and 2:* It is not necessary to ask the municipality for this, if the parent living here is a refugee and was granted asylum recently.

### Attachments, children:

- Birth certificate (copy and authorized translation to Danish or English).
- If the child does not hold a passport or other ID with photo, it will do with birth certificate and passport photo. If you apply for more than one child, put the name of them on the back of the photos.
- Certificate of custody (copy and authorized translation to Danish or English) – only needed if the parents are not married or have been divorced.
- Documentation about the place you live.

### Form SG2:

**Part 1** to the parent/sibling who applies for residence permit (applicant)

**Part 2** to the child who has asylum here (reference)

When a child with residence permit in Denmark applies to bring the parents, the parents must sign both parts of the form, no matter which country they are in (signing with your own name + add the child's name).

## 4. Where to submit the forms and the attachments?

*Part 1* can be submitted to a Danish embassy/consulate abroad, if the person who is applying is abroad. It must be handed in personally, and the applicant must bring a passport or other photo ID, and biometrics must be given (photo + fingerprints) in connection to the application (not for children). If there is no Danish embassy/consulate in the country, another country's can sometimes be used (i.e. Swedish or Norwegian). 2 passport photos are required. If the applicant is already in Denmark (usually on a visa stay) both parts of the form can be submitted in Denmark.

*Part 2* can be submitted to IS/Borgerservice or the local police in Denmark. If submitted personally in Borgerservice you can ask them to check if it is correctly filled out and all attachments are there. If the applicant is here on visa, the passport can be stamped, allowing the person to stay as long as the case is pending.

**Children:** If the parent who has asylum in Denmark, has the custody of the child, this parent can submit both parts of the form in Denmark.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

### **A: If the applicant has difficulties coming to a Danish representation:**

Family members staying in Syria, Eritrea and Somalia are not required to give fingerprints + photo until they arrive in Denmark (permits may also be given to other nationalities in special cases). They don't have to give meeting at a Danish representation but are allowed to stay in the home country and await the decision, as long as they inform IS how to contact them, i.e. a local phone number. When the permit is ready, they must travel to the representation they have written in the form and collect it. The person in Denmark can sign for the applicant (with her/his own name), however not in the cases where an unaccompanied minor is asking to get a permit for his/her parents.

### **Fees and complaint:**

Usually it costs a fee to apply for FR, but not when the person in Denmark is a refugee (residence permit under §7, 8 or 9b). A complaint over a rejection is also free of charge, and this must be sent to: Udlændingenævnet, Adelgade 11-13, 1304 Kbh K / udln@udln.dk  
However, a fee must always be paid to the embassy/consulate if a permission is given, the prices vary between countries but is around 1.500 DKR per person.

### **If the applicant is in Denmark on visa:**

The spouse who has a residence permit must accept to cover all expenses for the applicant during the processing time – also medical help. However, giving birth at hospital is usually free and acute treatment in emergency room is also free.

### **Translation:**

All documents must be translated to Danish or English, if they are not already in one of the two languages. The translation must be official with a stamp (costs around 500 DKR with a Danish translation bureau). If done in Denmark, it is sufficient to have a signature and the special translator number from the person who did it.

Info for the translator: It is important that everything is translated precisely. Also names, stamps, dates etc.

### **Documents:**

Only submit copies, keep the originals (unless IS specifically asks to see the original). Copies must be in colour and clearly readable.

### **Wedding certificates:**

For Syrians and Eritreans, both civil and religious certificates are required. But if it is not possible to get both (or none of them) the permission may be given on cohabitation\*. Afterwards, you can get married in Denmark without having to show a proof that you are not already married.

### **The asylum case:**

Your application will be compared with your asylum case. If information or dates are not in line, you must tell about this from the beginning and explain why.

### **Asylum assessment:**

If the person living in Denmark was granted asylum many years ago, IS will assess whether he/she is still in danger in the home country. If IS finds that the risk is no longer present, the couple has to live up to the normal requirements for FR (also the attachment demand). This does not mean that the person loses his/her residence permit.

### **Apply right away!**

If you wait more than 2 years to apply, the demands will be stricter, and already after 2 months you may be asked why you waited.

### **Processing time:**

When IS has received your application, you will get a short letter. It contains a case number for each person you applied for, and you can now log onto [www.newtodenmark.dk](http://www.newtodenmark.dk) and follow your case. When the case is "fully informed" which means when IS has everything they need, you will get a new letter telling you that the case is now being processed and how long time you can expect to wait. Refugee cases are considered "complicated" and the goal for those cases is 10 months from the case is fully informed (*Nov 2016, may change*).

You can help to make things go as fast as possible. If you did not fill out the forms correctly or did not submit all documents, translations etc. right away or have not explained why you are not able to supply them, you will get a letter about missing information. It might take 4 months before this happens. No matter whose fault it is; the translator, municipality or an oversight, it will extend your case.

### **Flight tickets:**

Earlier, the Danish state would pay for the transport when you got a permit, but that has been abolished. You must reserve and pay for the tickets to Denmark yourself. Some municipalities will pay for family members to unaccompanied minors. It can be a lot of money to raise, so you may ask neighbours and friends if they will contribute to the tickets.

### **How long is the permit valid?**

Residence permit as family reunified is given for 2 years. Remember to apply before it expires (but not until 3 months before), otherwise you will lose it and have to go through the whole procedure again, and the rules may even have changed. Extension can only be applied for online, and is free of charge when the reference is a refugee.

### **\*) Marriage or cohabitation:**

If the marriage is recognized, no cohabitation is needed. But if the marriage is not recognized, permission may be given because of cohabitation. In that case you must have been living together for 18 months at the same address, and it must be documented somehow. If it not possible to prove this, a long relationship and children may in some cases be enough.