

4. WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

- The visa fee or handling fee, which is currently 180 Euros;
- Costs for obtaining, translating and legally certifying the documents;
- Travel expenses, including transport to the embassy and airline tickets to Belgium; and
- Medical fees (doctor's certificate and any DNA test required).

Note: Other than the above listed costs, there is an exemption from additional administrative fees for family members of recognized refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (this exemption does not apply to applications for a humanitarian visa for an adult).

5. HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

A decision must be taken by the Belgian authorities within the 9 month period starting from the date that the application is lodged. Under special circumstances, this period may be extended twice by 3 months. If, after the expiry of the 9-month period (possibly extended), no decision has been taken, your family members must be granted a residence permit in Belgium.

6. WHAT DECISIONS CAN BE MADE?

The Immigration Service can take the following decisions:

- A positive decision: your family member will receive a "family reunification" visa, known as a visa D;
- A refusal with a request for a DNA test: if the DNA test is positive, the visa will be issued;
- A negative decision: the visa is denied. In this case, legal advice should be sought from a qualified lawyer or a specialized organization. A new visa application can also be submitted.

7. WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on the family reunification procedure and the organizations that can help you, consult the brochure on family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection at the following link: <http://bit.ly/2OGPXC9>

MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE LEGAL ASSISTANCE DURING THIS PROCEDURE!

Link to the official website of the Belgian Immigration Office for more information on the procedure of family reunification: <http://bit.ly/2ScN2PV>

Link to a list of the Belgian diplomatic posts abroad: <http://bit.ly/2PeV4Js>

Link to the online visa application (if applicable): <http://bit.ly/2ScO5PR>

Link to the video on Family Reunification: <http://bit.ly/2D0DkMe>



Scan the QR-code and watch the video for more information.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION FOR REFUGEES AND BENEFICIARIES OF SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION IN BELGIUM

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1. WHO CAN JOIN YOU IN BELGIUM THROUGH THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROCESS?



Your spouse or registered partner;



Your child below the age of 18;



Your dependent child aged 18 or older with a disability;



Your parents, if you are an unaccompanied child.*



In addition, other family members may be granted a residence permit in Belgium for **humanitarian reasons**.

* Your parents must submit the application before you reach the age of 18. If you reach 18 during the asylum procedure, your parents can still submit the application within three months after you have obtained an international protection status. Your brothers and sisters may be able to join you in Belgium on a humanitarian visa if they submit their application at the same time as your parents.

2. WHERE SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE SUBMITTED?

Your family members need to submit the application at a Belgian embassy or consulate which is designated for their place of current residence (or another Belgian embassy or consulate in case it is difficult to go to the officially authorized embassy or consulate). The embassy transfers the application to the Belgian Immigration Office that will decide on the outcome of the application.

3. WHICH DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED?

Please note the deadline: If your family member submits the family reunification application within the first year after you have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection status, you will not be required to provide proof of adequate housing, health insurance and adequate, stable and regular income in Belgium.

If this is the case, only the following documents must be submitted:



The signed visa application form with recent identity photos.



A valid travel document (national passport, travel document for refugees (1951 Convention) or possibly a laissez-passer issued by the Belgian authorities).



For each of your children: their birth certificate. If this is unavailable, the Belgian Immigration Office may ask for a DNA test.



For your spouse / wife: the marriage certificate.



For your civil partner: the statutory partnership contract and any evidence that the relationship is genuine and subsisting.



If your family member is aged 18 or older: Proof of a lack of a criminal record.



Medical certificate from a doctor certified by the embassy or consulate of Belgium as proof that your family member is not suffering from a disease that could endanger public health in Belgium.



For your child below the age of 18 or the children of your spouse or partner: →

According to the individual situation:

1. The consent of the person who holds custody of the child.
2. The court decision that the parent in Belgium has exclusive right or custody of the child.
3. The death certificate of the other parent.
4. Proof of divorce between the two parents.

- If, according to national law, your child below the age of 18 has reached the age at which they can be married: a certificate of being unmarried.
- For your child aged 18 or older with a disability: a medical certificate from a doctor recognized by the embassy or consulate of Belgium, which shows that due to their disability, your child is not able to live independently.
- A copy of your residence permit in Belgium, the refugee certificate and a copy of the decision granting you refugee status or the decision granting you subsidiary protection status.

All the original foreign documents have to be **legally certified** first by the authorities who provided them and thereafter by the competent consular post of Belgium. Furthermore, the original foreign documents, if prepared in a language other than German, English, French or Dutch, have to be **translated** by a sworn translator.