



Family Reunification in Hungary

Who has the right to family reunification?

In Hungary refugees (menekült) and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (oltalmazott) have the right to family reunification.

Which family members can be reunited?

Refugees can bring the following family members:

- Wife or husband,
- Minor children (below the age of 18) including adopted children,
- Parent if the refugee living in Hungary is a minor,
- Parent, who is not able to provide for him/herself meaning that his/her livelihood and well-being depends on the adult refugee living in Hungary, who supports the parent financially, socially and emotionally,
- Adult child who is not able to provide for him/herself and has a serious health problem,
- Brother or sister who is not able to provide for him/herself and has a serious health problem,
- Grandparent or grandchild who is not able to provide for him/herself and has a serious health problem.

Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection can bring the following family members:

- Wife or husband,
- Minor children (below the age of 18) including adopted children.

Family reunification is possible only in case the family connections had already existed by the time the refugee or the beneficiary of subsidiary protection reached Hungary. If you marry somebody or adopt a child after your arrival to Hungary, then you do not have the right to apply for this procedure.

When can you ask for family reunification?

You can ask for family reunification right after you received protection in Hungary. If the family of the refugee starts the family reunification procedure within three months after the refugee receives the status, then they only need to prove the existence of family connection or the dependence of family members. Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection do not have this possibility. If the family members of the refugee cannot start the family reunification procedure within the first three months, then the same rules apply to them, as to the family members of beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (see below).

How can you start the family reunification procedure?

Family members of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection can start the family reunification procedure. Family members wishing to come to Hungary need to travel to the closest Consulate of Hungary. Family members need to have a legal basis for their stay in the country where the Hungarian Consulate is located. If they have no chance for this, they should previously inform the Consulate. **In order to submit the family reunification application, families should make an appointment at the Consulate beforehand.** The family reunification applications are not decided by the Consulate, they only forward them to the Immigration and Asylum Office (IAO) in Budapest, who will make the decision. A case officer will be appointed for this, who will do a personal interview if needed.

What documents do you need to submit?

The family member of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection should show and submit the following documents to the Consulate:

- Valid passport (at the time of submission it is valid for at least six more months),
- One passport photo for each family member,
- 60 EUR for each family member,
- Filled in application form (available at the [website](#) of IAO),
- Documents proving the family link (birth and marriage certificate),
- Other supporting documents (proving health problems, dependency).

The Immigration and Asylum Office accepts documents in the procedure only in English and Hungarian. Therefore, we suggest submitting the original documents together with their certified English or Hungarian translation. Every original document will be sent to an expert by the IAO who will issue an opinion stating whether these documents are indeed original.

How can you prove the existence of family links?

In the family reunification procedure you always have to prove the existence of family links. This can be done by original documents such as a birth or marriage certificate or an official adoption document.

Family links can also be shown through a DNA-test, but its costs have to be paid by the family. Family members need to request this test from the IAO. Family members will take the test at the Consulate and it will be sent to Budapest, where the examination will be carried out.

What are the requirements for refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection in Hungary?

Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and refugees, whose family members could not submit their application for family reunification during the first three months, need to comply with the following requirements:

- Proof of accommodation: This can be shown by a lease agreement or by an agreement of courtesy use and with a copy of the property sheet. **It is useful if the names of family members wishing to reunite are also on the agreement.** There is a 6m²-per-person requirement for the apartment. When counting, please know that the bathroom, the hall and the kitchen should be excluded.
- Proof of livelihood: A work contract and proof of salary for the past six months are necessary, which can be obtained from the employer. If you have your own business, then the bookkeeper will provide proof of your income. In addition, a bank statement and a tax authority (NAV) certificate can also be necessary. **It is important to know that a large sum of money on your bank account will not be proof of your livelihood. What you need to show is that your income is continuous and predictable.**
- Proof of health insurance: Family members need to be fully insured. The contract can be done by anybody, but as beneficiaries, the names of family members should be listed.

What are the additional requirements for refugees to reunite with their parents and siblings?

The parents of refugees can only be reunited with the refugee, if they depend on the adult refugee living in Hungary, who supports them financially, emotionally, socially and psychologically. Financial dependency can be shown for example with bank transfers. In this case, the bank transfer should go directly to the parents if possible and not to a friend. However, the IAO should take into consideration all the circumstances, which substantiate the dependency between the refugee and the parent. Therefore, the procedure can also be successful even if the refugee does not send money to the parent, but they can prove that there is a strong emotional dependency between the refugee and the parent.

The siblings (brother or sister) of a refugee can only be reunited with the refugee if they are not able to provide for themselves and have a serious health problem and they need the support of the refugee living in Hungary. The existence of health problems can be shown by medical documents, for example showing past hospitalization or treatment and an official medical report. **If the necessary treatment is not available in the home country of the family member, this can also be submitted in the form of a certificate to the Immigration and Asylum Office.**

How long is the family reunification procedure?

The length of the family reunification procedure depends on many factors and individual circumstances. The first instance procedure usually takes about 6-10 months, but sometimes it can also be longer.

What can I do if my application is rejected?

If your application for family reunification is rejected you can appeal within 8 days at the Immigration and Asylum Office. During the second instance, following your appeal, it will be again the Immigration and Asylum Office deciding on your case. In case they reject your application again, you can turn to the Court in 30 days. The Court can either agree with the rejection or can squash it and order the Immigration and Asylum Office to make a new decision.

What should I do if my application is accepted?

If the Immigration and Asylum Office makes a positive decision, then they will inform the Hungarian Consulate, where the family members applied for family reunification. The Consul will then provide the family members with a single-entry visa (D visa). Family members can travel to Hungary with this visa and within 30 days after their arrival they have to collect their residence permit from the Immigration and Asylum Office (1135 Budapest, Szegedi út 35-37.). They will need to fill in a form registering their accommodation and this form has to be signed by the owner of the apartment where the family members are staying.



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