

FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND FAMILY REUNION

**INFORMATION LEAFLET
FOR PERSONS WITH
INTERNATIONAL
PROTECTION IN
ROMANIA**





This brochure is designed to inform you about the conditions through which your family members can join you in Romania.

The Romanian legal framework contains two procedures which can facilitate family unity for persons with international protection:

A. Family reunification is regulated by the Asylum Law and only persons with international protection are eligible to apply for it.

B. Family reunion is regulated by the Government's Emergency Ordinance on the foreigner's regime in Romania. The procedure is addressed to a wider category of foreigners, and contains certain particular provisions for holders of international protection.

Reading this material, you will find out more about the family members eligible for family reunification and family reunion, what documents must support your request and what are the next steps, once you have submitted the application and file.

A. Family reunification

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Outline

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B. Family reunion

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Outline

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A Family reunification

The family reunification procedure is an important means of promoting the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in the host state. Family represents an efficient emotional, social and financial support network for a refugee's adjustment to a new society.

1 What is Family Reunification?

The concept of family reunification refers to a procedure through which a beneficiary of international protection (refugee or person with subsidiary protection) can submit an asylum request in Romania for certain family members that are not currently in the country, in order to reunite with the family.

2 For which family members

does the procedure apply?

This procedure is available only for:

1. The spouse, under the condition that the marriage took place before the applicant's arrival in Romania.
2. Your unmarried minor¹ children (biological or adopted).

If you are an unaccompanied minor, you have the right to be reunited with your parents or legal guardian, as soon as possible. The procedure must be initiated by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, taking into consideration your opinion on the matter.

If your parents are not identified or located, you can ask for help at the General Inspectorate for Immigration in order to trace them.

3 When can you apply?

You can apply as soon as you are granted refugee status or subsidiary protection in Romania, and there is no time limit.

4 What is the procedure?

You must submit a file containing the following documents:

¹ Under 18 years old.



1. proof of family ties and an authorized translation of the respective documents
2. copy of the family members' passports (the period of validity should be visible)
3. copy of identity documents of the family members (if available)
4. a handwritten declaration made by the spouse, expressing her/his agreement with the family reunification procedure for her/him and the children (if the case), as well as her agreement to share the same living space with the applicant and an authorized translation.
5. a written request

5 How to prove your family ties?

You have to prove the kinship between you and your children, and/or the fact that the marriage between you and your wife/husband took place according to the legal provisions of your country of origin. You can do this through the following original documents issued by the competent public authorities from your country of origin:

- ▶ marriage certificate
- ▶ family book
- ▶ children's birth certificate (if the case), etc.

You might not have these original documents out of one of the following reasons:



1. the documents were never issued because of a variety of situations in your country of origin (for instance, the law regarding civil status documents is not enforced) =;
2. you lost the documents while fleeing your country of origin.

In this case, your application will be analyzed based on:

- ▶ copies of the original documents;
- ▶ information from the country of origin;
- ▶ the credibility of the declarations you made;
- ▶ secondary proof of family ties (such as: photographs, testimonials).

6 Where to submit the application?

The application must be submitted with the General Inspectorate for Immigration in Bucharest (in Romanian: Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrări – Direcția de Azil și Integrare București), or at the Regional Centre for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum Seekers in the area where you are living².

² There are 6 centres across Romania, in: Bucharest, Giurgiu, Galati, Radauti, Maramureș and Timișoara.



7 How long is the processing time?

The General Inspectorate for Immigration must issue a decision on your application within 9 months from the moment the file was submitted. In special cases, this period may be extended by another 6 more months.

8 What will happen if your

application is approved?

In case the proof of the family ties were made through marriage and the marriage took place before the entry in Romania, the General Inspectorate for Immigration will request the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- ▶ the granting of a visa (valid for 30 days);
- ▶ the issuance of a travel document for the family members who find themselves outside their country of origin, if they do not have one (valid for 30 days).

After arrival in Romania, the family will take part in the asylum procedure, similarly to the applicant for the family reunification procedure.

Important

Family members will have to contact the Romanian representation in the country where they are in order to request the issuance of the visa and/or the travel document. They must have sufficient documents to prove their identity.

Important: Family members who are still in the country of origin

must have a valid travel document. Romania will not be able to issue them a travel document.

Please keep in mind that after the family reunification procedure is approved, you must bear the travel costs for the person(s) who will join you in Romania.

9 What will happen if your application is rejected?

In case your application for family reunification is rejected by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, you may submit an appeal in court within 10 days.

10 What is the procedure if you are an unaccompanied child?

In the case of unaccompanied minors who are beneficiaries of a form of protection family reunification is made with due consideration for the best interests of the child.

The General Inspectorate for Immigration will automatically initiate

the family reunification procedure. In this case, the agreement of the legal representative and, depending of the situation, of the unaccompanied minor is requested.

In all cases the opinion of the unaccompanied minor will be taken into consideration and given the appropriate importance.

11 Where to go for help?

For more information and counseling on the family reunification procedure it is recommended that you contact the following organizations:



Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)

✉ office@cnrr.ro

📍 Strada Viesparilor nr. 19, etajul 2, sectorul 2, București, România

☎ 021 312 62 10



General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Asylum and Integration

📍 Tudor Gociu Street, no. 24A, district 4, Bucharest

Regional Centre for Procedures and Accommodation of Asylum Seekers Timisoara

📍 Armoniei Street, no. 33, Timișoara

Regional Centre for Procedures and



**Accommodation of Asylum Seekers
Radauti, Suceava County**

Perilor street, no.2, Rădăuți, Suceava

**Regional Centre for Procedures and
Accommodation of Asylum Seekers
Somcuta Mare, Maramures County**

Cetății street, no. 1A, Somcuta
Mare, Maramureș

**Regional Centre for Procedures and
Accommodation of Asylum Seekers
Galați**

Săvinești street, no.2, Galați

**Regional Centre for Procedures and
Accommodation of Asylum Seekers
Giurgiu**

1907 Boulevard, Giurgiu

! Important
Information and counseling is
provided FREE of charge.

B Family reunion

1 How is the
family reunion
procedure different
from the family
reunification
procedure?



The family reunion procedure is designed for a wider category of foreigners than the family reunification procedure (third country nationals with a residence permit valid for more than one year, EU blue card holders, permanent residents and persons with international protection). Persons with international protection can apply for family reunion with their spouse irrelevant whether the marriage was contracted before or after the applicant applied for asylum in Romania.

Under certain conditions, persons with international protection can apply for family reunion for their parents and adult children.

In case the family reunion application is approved, your family members will not apply for asylum in Romania. They will be issued a family reunion residence permit as for third country nationals and exercise their rights accordingly (e.g. they will need a working permit for employment).

2 For which family members does the procedure apply?

The procedure is available for:

- your spouse (irrelevant of when the marriage took place);
- Your minor unmarried children or your spouse's children (including those adopted);
- your parents, if they can't support themselves in their country of origin and they don't receive adequate family support;
- Your adult children, if they cannot care for themselves due to health problems;

3 When can you apply?

You can apply as soon as you are granted refugee status or subsidiary

protection in Romania, and there is no time limit.

To apply for family reunion you must present the original civil registry document attesting family ties with your spouse/relative.

4 What is the procedure?

You must submit a file containing the following documents:

! Important

Refugees and holders of subsidiary protection do not have to submit documents related to housing, medical insurance and income within the family reunion procedure.

1. A copy of the civil registry document attesting family ties and a legalized translation of the document;
2. A statutory declaration where you must mention that in case the request is approved, your family member or relative will live at the same location with you in Romania. In case you apply for reunion with your spouse, you must mention that this is the only marriage currently contracted (you do not have more than one wife);

3. Copy of the spouse/relative's passport, including the page where the validity period is registered;
4. 2 photos of the family member (passport type);
5. A standard request (which you will take from the Immigration Office)
6. A statutory declaration of the person who shares the custody of the child for which the family reunification request is submitted. The declaration must contain the parent's consent for the child to be reunited with the applicant in Romania (if the case);
7. A copy of your residence permit;

! Important

Persons with international protection are exempted from the obligation to certify the original civil registry documents.

5 Where to submit the application?

The application must be submitted with the General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Immigration in Bucharest (in Romanian: Inspectoratul General pentru Imigrari- Directia pentru Imigrari) or at its local office in the county where you are residing (in Romanian: Biroul pentru Imigrari);

6 How long is the processing time?

The General Inspectorate for Immigration must issue a decision on your application in 3 months from the moment the file was submitted.

7 What will happen if your application is approved?

If the application is approved, you will receive a written notification in this regard. The next step is for your family members to apply for visa issuance at the Romanian Consulate in the country where they are residing.

It is highly recommended to contact in advance the Romanian Consulate from the country where your family members reside in order to receive more information regarding the documents they will have to provide within the visa issuance procedure.

Important

For visa issuance your family members will have to apply online via the online e-visa application platform (available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).



8 Where to go for help?

For more information and counseling on the family reunification procedure it is recommended that you contact the following organizations:



Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)

✉ office@cnrr.ro

📍 Strada Viesparilor nr. 19, etajul 2, sectorul 2, București, România

☎ 021 312 62 10



General Inspectorate for Immigration – Directorate for Migration

📍 Eforie Street, no. 3-5, Bucharest



UNHCR ROMANIA

📍 UN House, Bd. Primaverii 48A, sector 1
011975 Bucharest, Romania

☎ + 40 21 201 7872 / 73

📠 + 40 21 210 1594

✉ rombu@unhcr.org

UNHCR Hotline 0723 653 651

Important

Information and counseling is provided FREE of charge.







The background of the entire page is a solid blue color. Overlaid on this background are several white silhouettes of people. In the upper half, two larger figures are shown from the waist up, holding hands. Below them, a group of smaller silhouettes, representing children, are also holding hands in a circle. The silhouettes are positioned such that they appear to be part of a larger group or community.

DISCLAIMER

This publication was produced with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Romania. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the Romanian National Council for Refugees and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees