

NOTE: Exemption administrative contribution for family members of recognized refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (unless requesting a humanitarian visa).

5. HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

Within the 9 month period starting from the date of filing the application, a decision must be taken by the Belgian authorities. Under special circumstances, this period may be extended twice by 3 months (spanning 15 months in total). If, after the expiry of the 9-month period, 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 receives a visa D "family reunification".
- A refusal with a request for a DNA test: if the DNA test is positive, the visa will be awarded.
- A negative decision: the visa is denied. In this case, you should seek legal advice from a 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: www.unhcr.be/fr/nos-activites/publications/rapports.

**MAKE SURE YOU ARE ASSISTED WELL
DURING THIS PROCEDURE!**

Link to a brochure with a list of organisations that can help you in your family reunification procedure

<http://bit.ly/2sEzFeK>

Link to the official website of the Belgian Aliens Office for more information on the procedure of family reunification

<http://bit.ly/2smm2Av>

Link to a list of the Belgian diplomatic posts abroad

<http://bit.ly/2rUN9Gh>

Link to the online visa application (if applicable)

<http://bit.ly/2rYxKjq>



Family reunification for beneficiaries of international 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 eligible for residence permit in Belgium for **humanitarian reasons**.

2. WHERE TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION FORM?



Your family member needs to submit the application at a **Belgian embassy or consulate** which is authorized for their place of current residence.

The application with attached documents is transmitted by the Belgian Embassy to the Immigration Service. It is the Immigration Service that will decide on the outcome of the application.

REMARK: In practice, family members of recognized refugees and subsidiary protected people, alternatively, can submit the application form in any Belgian embassy which is authorized to apply for long-term visa applications.

3. WHICH DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED?

PLEASE NOTE: If your family member submits the family reunification application within the first year of your recognition as a refugee or after granting your subsidiary protection status, you will not be required to provide proof of adequate housing, health insurance and adequate, stable and regular living 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 - blue passport issued by UNHCR or possibly a laissez-passer issued by the Belgian authorities);



- For your children: the birth certificate. In default, the Immigration Service may ask for a DNA test.



- For your spouse / wife: the marriage certificate



- For your registered partner: the contract of the statutory partnership, and a maximum of evidence that the relationship is sustainable (photos, emails, travel tickets, etc.).



- Proof of no criminal record or an equivalent document if your family member aged 18 or older.



- Medical certificate drawn up by 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 the public health of Belgium.



- For your child below the age of 18 or the children of your spouse or partner (non-common children):

1. The consent of the person who holds custody of the child, that the child may settle with the parent in Belgium, OR;
 2. The verdict that the parent in Belgium has exclusive right or custody of the child, OR;
 3. The death certificate of the other parent.
 4. Proof of divorce between the two parents.
- If, according to the 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 drawn up by a doctor recognized by the embassy or consulate of Belgium, which shows that due to his disability, your child is not able to live independently.
 - A copy of your residence permit in Belgium and a copy of the decision giving you refugee or subsidiary protection status.

All the **original** foreign documents have to be legalized by the authorities who provided them and thereafter by the competent consular post of Belgium in that country. 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.

4. WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

- The visa fee or handling fee, which is currently 180 Euros;
- Costs for obtaining, translating and legalizing the documents;
- Travel expenses, to the embassy and airline tickets to Belgium;
- Doctor's duties (medical certificate and DNA test);