



# 03

## Routes to Family Reunion

Factsheet (Child Relative of someone with Protection Status)

UK



### Do you have Protection Status (Refugee Status or Humanitarian Protection) and want to bring your child relative to the United Kingdom?

If so, this fact sheet explains how you can apply under [Appendix Child Relative \(Sponsors with Protection\)](#) of the Immigration Rules.

#### Who is a child relative?

A child relative is a child aged under 18 years old who is not your biological or adopted child but a part of your wider family. They could be your: **Brother, Sister, Niece, Nephew, Grandchild** or **Step-child**.

### How to Apply under Appendix Child Relative (Sponsors with Protection)



#### Application form

You must apply online. You can access the online application with this [visa application tool](#) from the UK government.

You select "Join or accompany a family member." When asked what status your family member in the UK has, select "In the UK with protection status or with stateless permission."

After choosing the country for biometrics, you choose "Child joining a close relative with protection status in the UK but who has not yet obtained settlement or become a British Citizen"

You must also download and complete the [Appendix 1 form](#) to submit with your evidence.



#### Application fee

An application costs £452 per person. The application fee is usually paid in local currency and you can use this [Visa Application Fees tool](#) to find out how much your application is likely to cost.



#### Immigration Health Charge

You will also have to pay the Immigration Health Charge so that your child relative can access healthcare whilst they are in the UK. Each year of their visa the IHC is £776.



#### Biometrics

Your child will need to enrol their biometrics. Please see our separate advice sheet about this.



#### What leave will they get?

If your child relative is granted under this route, they will be granted leave in line with you. They will usually be able to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain at the same time as you but may have to pay a different fee.



#### What are the requirements?

For your child relative to be granted permission to come and live with you in the UK, you must show you can meet these requirements (below and on the next page):



#### Applicant

The child applying must:

- Be outside the UK;
- Be under 18 years old when applying;
- Not have an "independent life";
- Not have formed an "independent family unit";

The child must be under 18 years old when the online application is submitted but can turn 18 before a decision is made.

"Independent life" usually means that the child is living on their own. An "independent family unit" usually means the child is married, in a civil partnership, or a long-term relationship (for more than 2 years), or has children of their own.



# 03

## Routes to Family Reunion

Factsheet (Child Relative of someone with Protection Status)



### Sponsor

You must:

- Hold “**protection status**”
- Be a “**Close Relative**”
- Be over 18 years old
- Be the only person who can care for the child

**Protection Status** means refugee status, humanitarian protection, or Statelessness. A **Close Relative** is a grandparent, brother, sister, step-parent, uncle (brother or half-brother of a child’s parent) or aunt (sister or half-sister of a child’s parent)

There must be no other family member who could reasonably be expected to look after the child except the relative in the UK. This could be because there are no other family members or they cannot live with any other family members due to safety or other concerns.



### Financial Resources

You must show you can financially support your child relative without relying on receiving public funds such as benefits. This is known as “**adequate maintenance**.”

To calculate if your income meets the “**adequate maintenance**” requirement you subtract your “*housing costs*” (which is the rent or mortgage you pay added to the Council Tax you pay each month) away from your monthly “*NET income*” (which is your monthly wage/salary after tax is paid). If the remaining money you have each month is more than your family would get on Income Support (or Universal Credit) in the UK then you can meet this requirement



### Accommodation

You must have adequate accommodation to house your child without needing Housing Benefit or other public funds to pay for it.

You must show that you can give your child or child relative somewhere to live that:

- Has enough rooms or space and so will not be “**overcrowded**”;
- Is safe to live in; and
- You either own the property or there would be enough rooms/space occupied by only you.



### **EVIDENCE**

You are expected to provide proof of:



1. **Relationship:** you should provide evidence which confirms you are related, such as:
  - Official documents that confirm how you are family
  - DNA test results
  - Photos, call records or records of financial support
  - Witness statements, explaining your family history and why you want to reunite
2. **Lack of alternative care:** you should provide as much evidence about why you are the only relative who can care for the child as possible - for example, if their parents are deceased, a death certificate.
3. **Your finances:** to show you meet the financial requirement you will need to provide specific evidence such as payslips, a letter from your employer, bank statements, and your housing documents



### Exceptional Circumstances

If you cannot meet all of the requirements, you can still apply. Your application may be granted if you can show that a refusal would be “**unjustifiably harsh**” for your child, or there are “**exceptional circumstances**” that mean it would breach your human rights (Article 8 ECHR: the right to a family life).

