

## 04

## Routes to Family Reunion

Factsheet (Partners)

**Do you want to bring your partner to the United Kingdom?**This factsheet explains how you can apply under **Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules**.A **partner** is your (legally) recognised **spouse; civil partner;** or your **unmarried partner** with whom you have been in a relationship similar to marriage or civil partnership for at least 2 years. **What is your status?**

I have limited leave with Protection Status (Refugee or Humanitarian Protection)

OR

I have limited leave on another route or ILR/settlement or British citizenship

**Appendix Family Reunion (Sponsors with Protection) is suspended.**You cannot apply on this route now.You may be able to apply on **Appendix FM**.**What can you do?****Option 1: WAIT**You can wait until the route reopens. It is very likely the rules will change but we do not currently know the details. They could include requirements for you to:

- show you earn above a specified income
- have lived in the UK for a minimum length of time

**Option 2: Apply under Appendix FM**You can make an application for entry clearance for your partner under Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules.

We have given information about this below.

**How to apply under Appendix FM: Family life with a Partner**

**Application form** You must apply online. You can access the online application through this [visa application tool](#). You select *Appendix FM Partner*.

**Application fee** An application costs £2,064 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 partner can access healthcare whilst they are in the UK. Each year of their visa the IHC is £1035.

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

**What leave will they get?** If your partner is granted under this route, how long their visa lasts will depend on your status. If you have **Protection Status**, they will be granted leave that will end at the same time as your leave. They may be able to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain at the same time as you but may have to pay a different fee. If you have another form of limited leave, ILR/settlement, or citizenship, your partner will normally be granted 33 months (2 years and 9 months).

**What are the requirements?** For your partner to come to the UK, you must meet the requirements we have set out on the next page.

**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 you and your partner, or there are “**exceptional circumstances**” that mean it would breach your human rights (Article 8 ECHR: the right to a family life).

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### Sponsor

You must be someone in the UK as one of the following:

- A refugee
- Someone needing Humanitarian Protection
- Indefinite Leave to Remain
- A Stateless person
- Appendix EU/Appendix ECAA Extension of Stay only)
- British citizenship



### Your relationship

Your partner must be your:

- Husband, wife or civil partner;
- Fiancé or proposed civil partner; or
- Unmarried partner if you have been in a serious relationship (like a marriage) for at least 2 years

You and your partner must:

- Be at least 18 years old;
- Have met in person;
- Be in a genuine, ongoing relationship;
- Intend to live together in the United Kingdom

A marriage or civil partnership must be **legally valid** (recognised by the authorities where it took place).

You and your partner must have **permanently** ended any other relationships and you must not be related to each other in a way that is prohibited.



### Finances

You must show you can financially support your family in the United Kingdom without needing government help. This means you have:

- a salary or income of at least **£29,000** per year before tax is paid; or
- substantial savings (savings under £16,000 are not considered at all); or
- receive specific financial welfare support (e.g. PIP or Disability Living Allowance)



### Accommodation

You must show that you and your partner have somewhere to live that. You must be able to pay for your partner's accommodation without needing Housing Benefit or other public funds. Your home must:

- Have enough rooms or space and so will not be "**overcrowded**";
- Be safe to live in; and
- Be property you own or there would be enough rooms/space occupied by only you.



### English Language

Your partner must meet the English language requirement. There are three ways to do this:

- Be from a majority English-speaking country;
- Hold an academic qualification taught in English that meets specific criteria;
- Pass a Secure English Language Test (SELT).

The SELT test is for **speaking** and **listening** and is at the most basic level ("beginner") - **A1**. You can be **exempt** from the requirement in some circumstances.



### **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