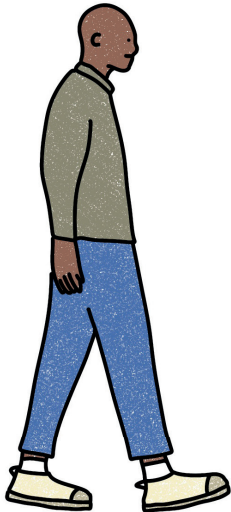


The procedure for
**Family
reunification**

The procedure for **Family Reunification**

I am a refugee in France. I want to bring my family to France.

Someone in my family is a refugee in France. I want to join them.



This booklet concerns the protected person in France as much as their family in another country, as everyone has a part to play in this process.

What is Family Reunification?



It is the possibility for members of your family to request a long-stay visa to join you in France.

If you are an adult, you can bring your husband/wife and your unmarried children (less than 19 years old) to France.

If you are a minor, you can bring your parents and their dependent under-age children to France.



Caution

Other than in exceptional cases, if I am a minor and my parents have died or disappeared, I cannot bring my under-age brothers and sisters to France.

→ Can I start this procedure?

If you have obtained refugee status, subsidiary protection or the status of statelessness, you can start a family reunification procedure.

→ When can I start my family reunification procedure?

You can start a family reunification procedure from the moment you obtain your status from the OFPRA (French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons) or the CNDA (National Court for the Right to Asylum).



→ If I obtained protection from the OFPRA or the CNDA when I was a minor and I have since become an adult, can I start a family reunification procedures?

Yes. What is important is that you presented your request for asylum when you were a minor.



Caution

If you got married after you obtained your protection from the OFPRA/CNDA, you can no longer claim family reunification.

In this case, you can start a family reunion procedure.

→ What is the difference between family reunification and family reunion?

Family reunion concerns persons legally settled in France for at least 18 months for a reason other than asylum, and who have sufficient material resources to host their family (salary, housing, etc.)

Summary of the main stages

1.

I CREATE MY VISA APPLICATION DOSSIER

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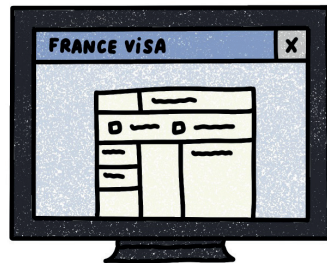
Stage 1

I create my dossier
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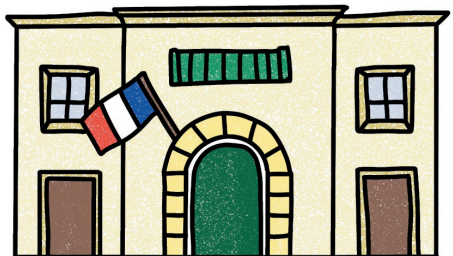
Stage 2

I must complete a form on
the France-Visas website
page 10



Stage 3

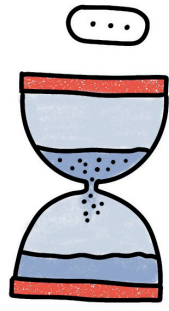
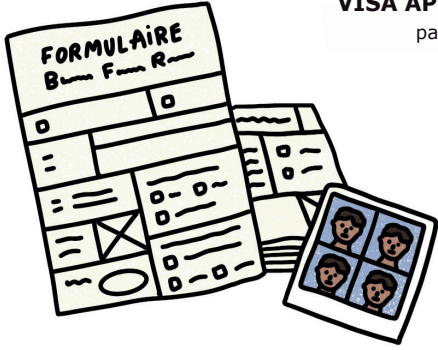
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2.

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Stage 4



Stage 5

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THE EMBASSY MAKES ITS DECISION

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The embassy responds positively
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DEMANDE DE VISA

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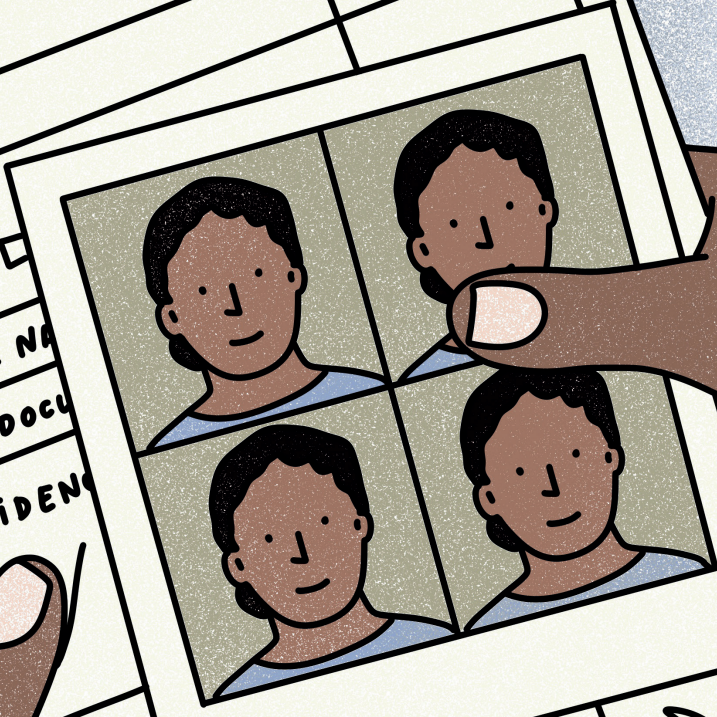
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1.

I create my visa application dossier



My family must apply for a long-stay visa at the French embassy of the country in which my family is living.

Where do I start?

Stage 1

I create my visa application dossier



If I'm in France

I must gather the following documents:

- France-Visas form (cf. p. 10).
- Proof of appointment at the visa centre or the embassy.
- My family's identity photos.
- Copy of both sides of my residency permit or receipt (except for unaccompanied minors if not available).
- OFPRA or CNDA decision.
- OFPRA birth certificate *
- OFPRA family booklet *
- OFPRA marriage certificate *
- My family members' passports, valid for more than 6 months.
- My family members' birth certificates.
- Marriage certificate.
- In the case of separation: a divorce decree and/or a judgement for the transfer of parental authority to bring children to France.

* If already received.

It is not compulsory to have all these documents, but I try to gather as many as possible.

- If my spouse has died: a death certificate
- All documents showing the link with my family (family photos, text, or social media messages, video calls, money transfers, vaccination records, school certificates etc.)
- Address and contact details for my family in the country in which they are living.

Unaccompanied minors (UM):

- Copy of the minority assessment (if it mentions different members of the UM's family).
- Copy of the OPP, the judgement for educational assistance or for guardianship.
- Attestation of the acceptance of financial responsibility by the Child Welfare Office (ASE).
- Letter from a contact at the ASE attesting that family reunification is in the interests of the UM.

Documents in languages other than French must be supplied with their sworn translation.



I must prove my family member's identities and the maintenance of family ties with my family outside.

I must justify the absence of certain documents.

Depending on the situation, my dossier may contain other documents that are not listed here.



CAUTION

The French authorities will verify the coherence of the declarations I made to the OFPRA (family names, first names, date and place of birth of my family members, number of children etc.).

I will write to the OFPRA if there need to be any corrections of the civil status.



If I'm outside France



I gather as many documents as possible and I send the **copies or photos** to my

Family member in France (my passport, my birth certificate, photos I have found, etc.).



I must arrange my journey (transport, accommodation, entry

visas if another country, cost, etc.) before the appointment at the French embassy.



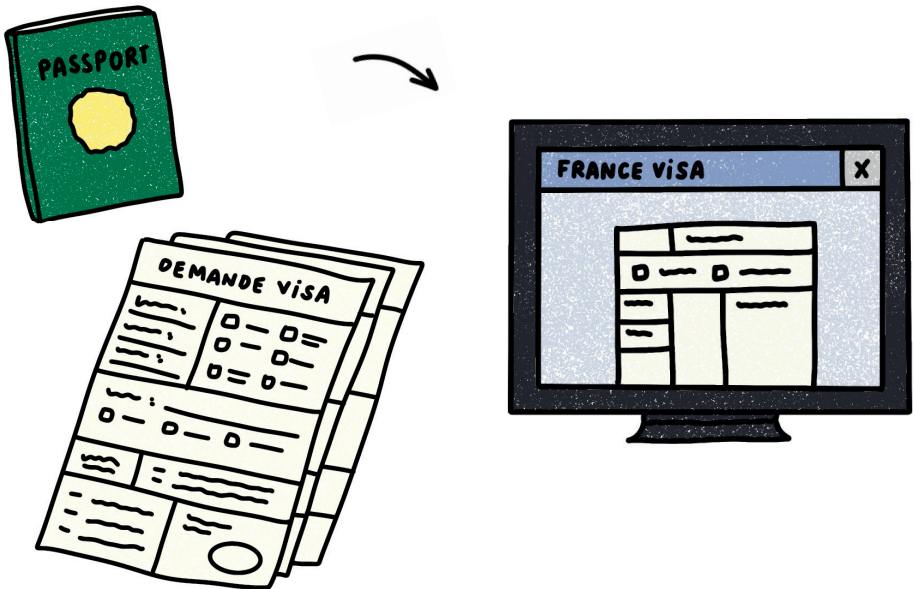
CAUTION

If I need to apply for a visa in a country other than my country of origin, I must find out how I can enter and leave that country legally.



Stage 2

**I must complete a form
on the France-Visas
website**





If I'm in France



I go to the France-Visas website. I create an account, and then complete a visa application form for each member of my family.

→ What if my family doesn't have a passport?



I can ask for a **consular pass (laisser-passer)**.

To do this, I need to use a false passport number (XXX000) to be able to validate the France-Visas form.



CAUTION

In certain countries, you need a passport because consular passes are not recognised.



If I'm outside France



I give my personal details to my family in France as well as my address (telephone number, email address, postal address).



I am careful to keep the same **telephone number and email active** during the entire duration of my visa application.

Stage 3

I make an appointment at the French embassy for my family



If I'm in France

→ **Where must I make the appointment for my family?**



I log in to France-Visas

to see where and how I can make an appointment and who is responsible for the appointment.



I make an appointment on the embassy website

or via the visa centre indicated on France-Visas (VFS, AEG, CAPAGO, TLS, SogeBank, etc).

In some countries, it is up to my family to go to the embassy or visa centre to make an appointment.



The embassy or visa centre confirms the appointment.



The visa application is subject to a fee. I read the France-Visas website to avoid being scammed.



If I have to make an appointment online through a visa centre (VFS, AEG, CAPAGO, TLS...), I may need a bank card or a local telephone number, not a French one.



The waiting times for getting an appointment can sometimes be very long.





Before the appointment at the embassy, I send the visa application dossier to my family so they can print it out.

My under-age children must be accompanied by an adult to whom I have given written authority to take them to their appointment at the embassy.



After my family's visa application has been filed, **I collect a copy of the receipt** given by the embassy or the visa centre (VFS, AEG, CAPAGO, TLS...).

This document indicates the date the instruction began and the number of the visa application dossier.



If I'm outside France



I print the whole of my dossier, and I bring my original documents (if I have them), on the day of the appointment.



If I am in another country, **I make sure I collect my passport** at the end of the appointment.



I remember to take money with me to pay the handling fee (99 euros in local currency for each visa) and any resulting service fees.



I keep my receipt from the embassy or visa centre as this is proof that I really have filed my application.



What if I miss my appointment? I contact the embassy or visa centre (VFS, AEG, CAPAGO, TLS...) to inform them of the situation and ask for another appointment.



2.

The embassy processes my visa application

The processing times may be long.

I must wait between 2 and 8 months on average.

Stage 4

I complete the form for the BFR (Office for Refugees' Families)



If I'm in France



The Office for Refugees' Families (Bureau des Familles de Réfugiés - BFR) sends me an information form.

I complete the form, and if necessary I ask for help with this from a person or association.



I send it back quickly with all the documents requested. If I don't have certain documents (for example: refugee travel permit), I inform the BFR in the same letter.

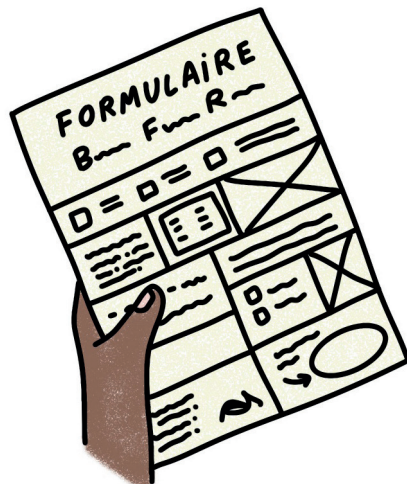


If I'm outside France



I must wait.

I do not need to go to the embassy.



Stage 5

I wait for the embassy to give me an answer



If I'm in France

1st situation

No notification that the processing of my application has been extended. Two months after the appointment, if I have not received a notification that my application has been extended, I must appeal to the Appeals Commission against the refusal of a visa (CRRV). I have 1 month to make the appeal. In this case, I ask for help from an association or a lawyer.

2nd situation

Notification that the processing of my application has been extended to verify foreign documents - extension of 4 months (renewable once).



If I'm outside France



I must wait.

I don't need to go to the embassy.

I can ask about the progress of my application by completing the BFR contact form, or by writing direct to the embassy. The embassy can extend the entire application process for a maximum of 8 months after the appointment.



3.

The embassy makes a decision



I may be presented with several scenarios:

The embassy may grant the visa to my family, or refuse it.

What steps should I take depending on the decision made?

The embassy responds positively



If I'm in France

With my family, I check the exit conditions of the country in which they are living.

I help my family to organise their departure (plane tickets, etc.)

If my under-age child is travelling alone, I write a travel authorisation and I ask the airline if my child can be accompanied during the journey.



If I'm outside France

I go to the embassy, I collect my passport or consular pass (*laissez-passer*) and my visa.

I have 3 months to go to France.



CAUTION

With a consular pass, I have only 1 month to go to France.



If I need to get an exit visa or pay subsistence costs, I take the required steps to do this.

If the embassy has not responded



If I'm in France

If after 8 months I still have not had a response, that means that the embassy has implicitly rejected my application.

I contact the embassy to check that it is not due to a delay, and I request the possible reasons for rejection because, in some cases, I may wait more than 8 months.



If I'm outside France

I can contact the embassy for news of my visa application.



The embassy responds negatively



If I'm in France

I have 1 month to make a CRRV appeal. In this case, I ask for help from an association or a lawyer.

If my CRRV appeal is refused, I must appeal to the Administrative Tribunal of Nantes with the help of a lawyer. Depending on my resources, I can ask to benefit from legal aid to pay the lawyer's fees.



The family reunification procedure can take a long time. Do not hesitate to seek support from an association, your social worker or anyone else that can help you.

If you have any questions, go to:
reunifications@croix-rouge.fr

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