

Adding an Adult Dependant to your Asylum Support Arrangements

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If you are currently receiving asylum support (formerly NASS) from the Home Office (UK Border Agency) and your husband, wife or partner has joined you in Scotland; it may be possible to add them as an adult dependant to the support you receive.

Note that adding an adult dependant to your support does **not** mean they have been added to your claim for asylum. We advise that you always discuss this with your legal representative, as changes in your family circumstances **may** have an impact on your immigration case.

This leaflet identifies who can be added as an adult dependant to the asylum support you receive from the Home Office, what documents are required to support your request and how we can help.

Who can be added to your support as an adult dependant?

If you are trying to add an adult dependant to your asylum support, they **must** be known to the Home Office. If they have not yet been in contact with Home Office, or have never claimed asylum in the UK, you must speak to a legal representative before taking further action.

In order to be added to the asylum support you receive from the Home Office your partner must meet one of the criteria below. They must:

- be married to you; **or**
- have lived with you as an unmarried couple in the UK for at least two of the last three years; **or**
- have been dependant on your asylum claim before it was refused.

What documents must I provide to add my partner as a dependant?

In order to add an adult dependant to your support arrangements, you must make a written request to the Home Office that has been signed by both you and your partner. You must also provide evidence of your relationship. Acceptable evidence includes:

- your marriage certificate
- your child's birth certificate indicating your wife, husband or partner as a parent

If you are not married **or** no longer have your marriage certificate or your child's birth certificate, you may provide:

- documented written evidence that you mentioned your partner during your interview(s) with the Home Office or in your application for asylum support
- letters or utility bills with both of your names indicated at a matching address
- copies of your fresh claim for asylum or a Legacy Questionnaire that details dependants and confirms your relationship

How can we help?

We can assist you and your partner to complete your initial written request to the Home Office. Please note that it is our policy to speak to you and your partner separately prior to submitting the request.

It can take a number of weeks for the Home Office to process your request. The Home Office will write to you directly to inform you of their decision. If you have not received any correspondence from the Home Office after four weeks, please contact us.

If you need to update your contact details or advise us of any change in your circumstances, you can telephone our **free phone: 0800 085 6087** and speak to the duty caseworker. Note that our free phone is only accessible from a landline telephone.

What happens if my application is refused?

If your application is refused, we may be able to assist you to lodge an appeal to an independent body called the Asylum Support Tribunal (AST). The details of your appeal will depend on the reasons the Home Office provides for refusing support.

You can ask to attend the appeal in London if you want to present your case to the Tribunal in person. If you tell the Home Office in advance that you wish to attend, they may be able to pay for your journey.