



Home Office

Dependent family members in work routes

Version 5.0

This guidance tells caseworkers how to consider applications from people who wish to enter or remain in the UK as the dependent family member of those who currently have permission on a work route, or who have settled in the UK on a work route.

Contents

Contents.....	2
About this guidance.....	5
Contacts	6
Publication.....	7
Changes from last version of this guidance	7
Key facts	8
Assessing applications for dependent partners and dependent children	8
When dependants are permitted.....	8
Adult children and other relatives	8
Exceptional dependant applications.....	8
Irish citizens	9
Children from previous relationships.....	9
Dependant requirements.....	12
Validity requirements – Permission to enter or stay	12
Immigration Health Charge.....	12
Biometrics.....	13
Switching	13
Lead applicant and partner aged 18 or over	14
Suitability requirements – Permission to enter or stay	14
Grounds for refusal	14
Overstaying and Immigration bail.....	15
Eligibility requirements – Permission to enter or stay.....	15
Entry clearance	15
Tuberculosis screening.....	16
Lead applicant immigration status.....	16
Relationship.....	17
Partner requirements	17
Minimum age for partners	17
Polygamous relationships	18
Relationship with the lead applicant	18
Genuine and subsisting requirement.....	18
2-year unmarried partner requirement.....	19
Intention to live together.....	20

Child requirements	20
Parental relationship.....	20
All applicants	20
Parental immigration status requirement.....	21
Exceptional circumstances - serious and compelling circumstances	22
UK born child requirements.....	22
Child dependant aged 18 or over	23
Previous permission as a dependent child	23
Child dependant aged 16 or over	23
Child leading an independent life.....	23
Care requirement.....	24
Financial requirements.....	24
Insufficient funds demonstrated.....	25
Funds not shown by sponsor.....	25
Attempt to use funds more than once	25
Funds not held for 28 days	26
Failure to maintain and accommodate	26
Criminal record certificate requirement	26
Overseas business requirement.....	27
Settlement requirements	29
Validity requirements - Settlement	29
Switching – UK Ancestry settlement.....	29
Unconnected settlement application.....	30
Suitability requirements - Settlement	30
Grounds for refusal	30
Overstaying	31
Immigration bail.....	31
Eligibility requirements - Settlement.....	31
Lead applicant settled status requirement	31
Last grant settlement requirement.....	32
Dependent Partners qualifying period	32
5-year permission requirement: partners	32
5-year residence requirement: partners	33
5-year partner requirement	33
Child settlement requirements.....	33

Both parents' settlement requirement	33
Child dependant aged 18 or over	34
Previous permission as a dependent child	34
Child dependant aged 16 or over	34
Child leading an independent life.....	34
Care requirement.....	35
English language requirement.....	35
Knowledge of Life in the UK requirement.....	36
Grant permission: dependent partner or child	37
eVisas.....	37
Duration of grant	37
Conditions of grant.....	38
Employment for dependants	38
Study in a discipline covered by Appendix ATAS of the Immigration Rules	38
Endorsement for entry clearance applications	38
Dependant: refusal paragraphs	41

About this guidance

This guidance tells you how to consider applications from people who wish to enter or stay in the UK as a dependent family member of those who currently have permission on a work route, or who have settled in the UK on such a route.

If the applicant is the dependant of someone who holds or is applying for permission as a student (including Tier 4), they should apply under the Student route.

If the applicant is the dependant of someone who holds or is applying for permission as a graduate, they should apply under the Graduate route.

If the applicant is a dependant of a lead applicant who:

- is an Irish citizen
- settled via a route not listed below
- has permission in a route not listed below and is not applying to switch into one of those routes
- has permission under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)

they cannot apply under these routes.

If a dependant holds valid permission independently of the lead applicant, such as under the EUSS, they may not have to make an application as a dependant under these rules.

This guidance is based on the dependant paragraphs contained in the relevant appendices of the Immigration Rules, the letters in brackets indicate how the Rules are referenced:

- Skilled Worker (and its predecessor route: Tier 2 (General)) (SW)
- Global Business Mobility routes below:
 - Senior or Specialist Worker (SNR) (and the predecessor routes - Intra-Company Transfer route and Tier 2 (Intra-Company Transfer) route)
 - Graduate Trainee (GTR) (and the predecessor route - Intra-Company Graduate Trainee route)
 - UK Expansion Worker (UKX)
 - Service Supplier (SSU)
 - Secondment Worker (SEC)
- T2 Minister of Religion (and its predecessor route: Tier 2 (Minister of Religion)) (MOR)
- International Sportsperson (and its predecessor routes: T2 Sportsperson, Tier 2 (Sportsperson), sporting worker under Appendix T5 (Temporary Worker) Creative or Sporting Worker, and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) in the Creative and Sporting sub-category for migrants sponsored as a sporting worker) (ISP)
- Representative of an Overseas Business (ROB)

- UK Ancestry (UKA)
- Global Talent (and its predecessor route: Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent)) (GT)
- High Potential Individual (HPI)
- Innovator (INN)
- Start-up (SU)
- Temporary Work routes below:
 - Creative Worker (and its predecessor routes: creative worker under Appendix T5 (Temporary Worker) Creative or Sporting Worker and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) in the Creative and Sporting sub-category for migrants sponsored as a creative worker) (CRV)
 - Religious Worker (and its predecessor routes: T5 (Temporary Worker) Religious Worker and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) in the Religious Worker sub-category) (RW)
 - Charity Worker (and its predecessor routes: T5 (Temporary Worker) Charity Worker and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) in the Charity Worker sub-category) (CW)
 - Government Authorised Exchange (and its predecessor routes: T5 (Temporary Worker) Government Authorised Exchange Worker and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) in the Government Authorised Exchange sub-category) (GAE)
 - International Agreement (and its predecessor routes: T5 (Temporary Worker) International Agreement Worker and Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) in the International Agreement sub-category) (IA)

Where the term 'lead applicant' is used in this guidance, it refers to the person who is applying for, holds permission to stay, or has settled on the basis of holding permission on one of the routes listed above.

Any evidence received in support of an application should be either in English or Welsh or be accompanied by a certified translation.

A certified translation should be accompanied by written confirmation from the translation company:

- that it is a 'true and accurate translation of the original document'
- the date of the translation
- the full name and contact details of the translator or a representative of the translation company

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you or you think the guidance has factual errors, then your line manager or locally embedded expert can email the Economic Migration Policy team via the Work and Study Technical Team.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance then your line manager or locally embedded expert can email the Guidance Rules and Forms team.

Publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was published:

- version **5.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **30 May 2022**

Changes from last version of this guidance

- High Potential Individual route dependant references added

Related content

[Contents](#)

Key facts

This page tells you about who can apply as dependants on a work route and what their conditions of grant will be.

Assessing applications for dependent partners and dependent children

If the dependent partner and/or dependent children are applying at the same time as the lead applicant, the applications should be considered together.

Dependent partners and dependent children are not required to apply at the same time as the lead applicant, they can also apply to join the lead applicant at a later date. If a dependent partner and/or dependent children are applying to join a lead applicant who has already been granted permission to stay within the UK, all dependants should be granted permission in line with the end date of the lead applicant's permission.

Where a lead applicant qualifies to apply under the 'Health and Care visa', their application and those of their dependants will be subject to reduced visa fees and no Immigration Health Charge. In all other respects they should be assessed in line with a Skilled Worker consideration.

When dependants are permitted

The following people are allowed to come to the UK as a dependant to join a person who has been granted permission in one of the routes listed in the [about this guidance](#) section, or who will be applying at the same time:

- spouses
- civil partners
- partners who are not married or in a civil partnership
- dependent children under the age of 18 on the date of application

Adult children and other relatives

Children who are 18 years old or older on the date of application, who have not previously been granted permission as a dependent of the lead applicant, cannot be granted permission as a dependent child. Similarly, other relatives, for example parents or grandparents, cannot apply.

Exceptional dependant applications

Where there are exceptional, compelling and compassionate circumstances raised on behalf of a dependant who cannot meet the requirements to be granted entry

clearance, permission or settlement as a partner or child of a lead applicant, you must consider that application outside of the Immigration Rules.

See: Leave outside the Immigration Rules for further information.

Irish citizens

Irish citizens do not need permission to enter or stay in the UK.

Irish citizens have a right to enter or stay in the UK without restriction and can therefore be the 'other parent' if an economic migrant has a child dependant and the Irish citizen lives with them in the UK.

Note that under some circumstances an Irish citizen could be banned from entering the UK and would therefore not be able to be the 'other parent'.

Children from previous relationships

The rules of the following routes require that any dependent children are either jointly, with their dependant partner, or solely the responsibility of the lead applicant:

- Skilled Worker
- Innovator
- Creative Worker
- Religious Worker
- Charity Worker

The following routes allow for the partner to have sole responsibility:

- Student
- Graduate
- T2 Minister of Religion
- Representative of an Overseas Business
- UK Ancestry
- Global Talent
- Start-up
- International Sportsperson
- International Agreement
- Government Authorised Exchange
- Global Business Mobility
- High Potential Individual
- Scale-up

The definition of parent under [paragraph 6](#) of the Immigration Rules is:

"Parent" includes:

- (a) the stepfather of a child whose father is dead, and reference to stepfather includes a relationship arising through civil partnership; and
- (b) the stepmother of a child whose mother is dead, and reference to stepmother includes a relationship arising through civil partnership; and
- (c) the father, as well as the mother, of an illegitimate child where the person is proved to be the father; and
- (d) an adoptive parent, where a child was adopted in accordance with a decision taken by the competent administrative authority or court in a country whose adoption orders are recognised by the UK or where a child is the subject of a de facto adoption in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 309A (except that an adopted child or a child who is the subject of a de facto adoption may not make an application for leave to enter or remain in order to accompany, join or remain with an adoptive parent under paragraphs 297 to 303); and
- (e) in the case of a child born in the UK who is not a British citizen, a person to whom there has been a genuine transfer of parental responsibility on the ground of the original parents' inability to care for the child.

If the child or children come from a previous relationship that the dependent partner has had, and the other natural parent is still alive you should be aware that the lead applicant may have become a de facto adoptive parent.

The Immigration Rules, under paragraph 309A, state that a de facto adoption shall be regarded as having taken place if:

- (a) at the time immediately preceding the making of the application for entry clearance under these Rules the adoptive parent or parents have been living abroad (in applications involving two parents both must have lived abroad together) for at least a period of time equal to the first period mentioned in sub-paragraph (b)(i) and must have cared for the child for at least a period of time equal to the second period material in that sub-paragraph; and
- (b) during their time abroad, the adoptive parent or parents have:
 - (i) lived together for a minimum period of 18 months, of which the 12 months immediately preceding the application for entry clearance must have been spent living together with the child; and
 - (ii) have assumed the role of the child's parents, since the beginning of the 18 month period, so that there has been a genuine transfer of parental responsibility.

You should also consider if the circumstances may meet the fourth part of the relationship requirement rules listed below.

‘(d) the decision maker is satisfied that there are serious and compelling reasons to grant the child entry clearance or permission to stay with the parent who is applying for or has entry clearance or permission as a [route name].’

Related rules: CRV 14.2, CW 13.2, GAE 16.2, GT 20.2, HPI 14.2, IA 26.2, SNR 18.2, GTR 18.2, UKX 18.2, SSU 18.2, SEC 16.2, INN 27.2, ROB 24.2, RW 13.2, ISP 24.2, SU 17.2, SW 30.2, UKA 22.2.

Consideration should be given to questions such as the list below. This is not an exhaustive list. Any application should have a full consideration of welfare issues and the best interests of the child:

- What is in the best interests of the child?
- Are they normally living with the lead applicant and their biological parent who is the partner?
- Do they have consent from the other natural parent to apply?

If a child has previously been granted permission as the dependant of the lead applicant there must be extraordinary circumstances not to grant further permission when assessing the relationship requirement.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Dependant requirements

This section tells you about the requirements for dependants of lead applicants.

Dependants must meet the requirements found in each dependant section of the lead applicant's route – see the appropriate [Immigration Rules](#).

For example, the dependants of a Skilled Worker must meet the requirements of paragraphs SW 26.1 to SW 46.2.

Validity requirements – Permission to enter or stay

Before considering suitability and eligibility, you must check the application is valid.

If you are not satisfied the application meets all the validity requirements, you should consider whether to request more information, reject the application or proceed to consider.

Applications must have been made on the correct form.

Related rules

CRV 10.1, CW 9.1, GAE 12.1, GT 16.1, HPI 10.1, IA 22.1, SNR 14.1, GTR 14.1, UKX 14.1, SSU 14.1, SEC 12.1, INN 23.1, MOR 18.1, ROB 20.1, RW 9.1, ISP 20.1, SU 13.1, SW 26.1, UKA 18.1.

Applications should meet all the following requirements:

- any fee and Immigration Health Charge must have been paid
- the applicant must have provided any required biometrics
- the applicant must have provided a passport or other travel document which satisfactorily establishes their identity and nationality

Related rules

CRV 10.2, CW 9.2, GAE 12.2, GT 16.2, HPI 10.2, IA 22.2, SNR 14.2, GTR 14.2, UKX 14.2, SSU 14.2, SEC 12.2, INN 23.2, MOR 18.2, ROB 20.2, RW 9.2, ISP 20.2, SU 13.2, SW 26.2, UKA 18.2.

Immigration Health Charge

For further information on the Immigration Health Charge (sometimes called the Immigration Health Surcharge or IHS), please refer to the guidance on the Immigration Health Charge.

Those applying as dependants of a Health and Care visa applicant or holder are exempt from having to pay the Immigration Health Charge and have lower application fees. Further details regarding the Health and Care visa can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Biometrics

Biometric information is required for applications made in the UK if the lead applicant has a biometric residence permit (BRP) or is applying for one as part of their application. The requirements are subject to age limits as shown below:

- under 6 years old - photograph only
- 6 to 16 years old - photograph and fingerprints
- above 16 years old - photograph, fingerprints and signature

Official – sensitive: start of section

The information in this section has been removed as it is restricted for internal Home Office use.

Official – sensitive: end of section

Switching

An applicant who is in the UK and applying to switch into the lead applicant's route as a dependant is unable to do so if they have, or were last granted, permission on any of the routes listed below:

- as a Visitor
- as a Short-term student
- as a Parent of a Child Student
- as a Seasonal Worker
- as a Domestic Worker in a Private Household

Neither can they have been granted permission outside the Immigration Rules.

There may be exceptional reasons that someone in those circumstances should be allowed to switch to be a dependant, and this should be considered on a case by case basis outside of the Immigration Rules.

Related rules

CRV 10.4, CW 9.4, GAE 12.4, GT 16.5, HPI 10.4, IA 22.4, SNR 14.4, GTR 14.4, UKX 14.4, SSU 14.4, SEC 12.4, INN 23.4, MOR 18.4, ROB 20.4, RW 9.4, ISP 20.4, SU 13.5, SW 26.4, UKA 18.3.

Lead applicant and partner aged 18 or over

Lead applicant and partner aged 18 or over:

- any application with a partner requires that both the lead applicant and the dependent partner are aged 18 or over when the application is made, with the exception of applications on the UK Ancestry route
- UK Ancestry applications rely on paragraph 277 of the Immigration Rules, which does not allow a partner permission to enter or stay if either the lead applicant or partner is under 18 on the date of arrival in the UK or on the date on which permission to stay would be granted, rather than the date the application is made

Related rules

CRV 10.3, CW 9.3, GAE 12.3, GT 16.3, HPI 10.3, IA 22.3, SNR 14.3, GTR 14.3, UKX 14.3, SSU 14.3, SEC 12.3, INN 23.3, MOR 18.3, ROB 20.3, RW 9.3, ISP 20.3, SU 13.3, SW 26.3.

Paragraph 277 in [Part 8](#) of the Immigration Rules.

Suitability requirements – Permission to enter or stay

Grounds for refusal

The applicant must not fall for refusal under the grounds for refusal.

The grounds for refusal are divided into 5 sections:

1. Defining which Rules are subject to the grounds for refusal.
2. Grounds for refusal, or cancellation of, entry clearance, permission to enter and permission to stay.
3. Additional grounds for refusal of entry, or cancellation of entry clearance or permission, on arrival in the UK.
4. Additional grounds for refusal, or cancellation, of permission to stay.
5. Additional grounds for cancellation of entry clearance, permission to enter and permission to stay which apply to specified routes.

You should check which rules are appropriate for the type of application you are considering.

You should not take into account any breaches of the Immigration Rules whilst the applicant was under the age of 18 when the offence occurred. See [Overstaying](#).

Related rules

CRV 11.1, CW 10.1, GAE 13.1, GT 17.1, HPI 11.1, IA 23.1, SNR 15.1, GTR 15.1, UKX 15.1, SSU 15.1, SEC 13.1, INN 24.1, MOR 19.1, ROB 21.1, RW 10.1, ISP 21.1, SU 14.1, SW 27.1, UKA 19.1.

Overstaying and Immigration bail

Before considering any application, you must check the applicant is not in breach of immigration laws, except for periods of overstaying which can be disregarded under the Immigration Rules.

Full guidance on overstaying is available.

Additionally, a person applying for permission to stay must not be on immigration bail. A foreign national can apply for immigration bail if the Home Office is holding them on immigration matters. This means they might be released from immigration detention, but they will have to obey at least one condition. These individuals do not hold permission to be in the UK.

Further details can be found at [Immigration detention bail](#).

Related rules

CRV 11.2, CW 10.2, GAE 13.2, GT 17.2, HPI 11.2, IA 23.2, SNR 15.2, GTR 15.2, UKX 15.2, SSU 15.2, SEC 13.2, INN 24.2, MOR 19.2, ROB 21.2, RW 10.2, ISP 21.2, SU 14.2, SW 27.2, UKA 19.2.

Eligibility requirements – Permission to enter or stay

Eligibility requirements are divided into the following categories:

Entry clearance

A dependant must have been granted entry clearance prior to coming to the UK and will be refused entry if they have not done so, unless they are in the Creative Worker route and meet the requirements below.

Related rules

CRV 12.1, CW 11.1, GAE 14.1, GT 18.1, HPI 12.1, IA 24.1, SNR 16.1, GTR 16.1, UKX 16.1, SSU 16.1, SEC 14.1, INN 25.1, MOR 20.1, ROB 22.1, RW 11.1, ISP 22.1, SU 15.1, SW 28.1, UKA 20.1.

A person arriving in the UK and seeking entry as a partner or child on the Creative Worker route who does not have a valid entry clearance may be granted permission to enter if all the following requirements are met:

- the applicant is not a visa national
- the applicant is seeking entry at the same time as the person they are a dependant of, and who meets the requirements at CRV 3.2
- the applicant meets the requirements to be granted permission as a partner or child on the Creative Worker route

Please refer to the Temporary Work - Creative Worker guidance.

Related rules

CRV 12.2.

Tuberculosis screening

Where an applicant is applying for permission to come to the UK as a dependent partner or dependent child for more than 6 months, they will need to provide a valid Tuberculosis (TB) certificate with their application if they have been residing within a country listed in [Appendix T](#) of the Immigration Rules for the 6 months immediately before the application. This only applies to entry clearance applications.

Further information regarding which applicants are required to obtain a TB certificate before applying and the valid test centres can be found at: www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa.

Related rules

CRV 12.3, CW 11.2, GAE 14.2, GT 18.2, HPI 12.2, IA 24.2, SNR 16.2, GTR 16.2, UKX 16.2, SSU 16.2, SEC 14.2, INN 25.2, MOR 20.2, ROB 22.2, RW 11.2, ISP 22.2, SU 15.2, SW 28.2, UKA 20.2.

Lead applicant immigration status

If the lead applicant has obtained settlement or British citizenship through any route covered by this guidance, a dependent can apply for permission to stay, or settlement if they qualify, as a dependant on the economic route, provided they held permission as the lead applicant's dependant before the lead applicant settled. This is not a requirement for UK Ancestry applications and does not apply to children born in the UK before the lead applicant settled.

If applying for settlement as the dependant of an International Agreement Worker, T2 Minister of Religion or a Representative of an Overseas Business previous dependant leave must be in that route. Other routes can have been granted as a partner in another route.

It is also open for them to apply as the partner or child of a settled person under the family rules.

If a child was born in the UK and does not hold any immigration status at a time before the lead applicant settled, they can apply for settlement through that economic route – except International Agreement, or T2 Minister of Religion.

A child born after settlement of the lead applicant, and who requires permission to stay, should apply through family routes – paragraphs 297 to 304 in Part 8

Relationship

The following requirements should be assessed in the round. Evidence of meeting one requirement will often also show the relationship meets the other requirements. If you doubt the evidence provided to meet any of the relationship requirements, you may request an applicant attends an interview.

Where an applicant fails to undertake an interview without a reasonable explanation as to why they are unable to do so, you must consider whether to refuse the application on grounds for refusal related to the failure to attend the interview ([paragraph 9.9.1](#)).

The interview can only be rearranged if an applicant gives adequate reasons as to why they cannot attend the interview, and the interview team are reasonably satisfied with these reasons.

Detailed guidance on assessing relationships is available.

Note that this guidance has been written for those assessing applications under Appendix FM, but caseworkers considering applications to which this guidance relates may refer to the following sections:

- Recognition of marriage and civil partnership
- Prohibited degree of relationship
- Proxy marriages or civil partnerships
- Sham marriage, sham civil partnership, and marriages or civil partnerships of convenience
- Genuine and subsisting relationship
- Arranged marriages
- Forced marriages and civil partnerships
- The UK government definition of forced marriage or civil partnership
- Possible bigamy, polyandry or perjury
- Divorce and dissolution in the UK
- Divorce obtained other than by means of court proceedings

Partner requirements

Minimum age for partners

Any application as a dependent partner requires that both the lead applicant and the partner are aged 18 or over on the date of application (except for UK Ancestry applications, where the relevant date is the date of arrival in the UK or on the date on which permission to stay would be granted).

Only UK Ancestry applications which fail this should reach the eligibility stage. Applications on all other routes should have been rejected as invalid.

Related rules

Paragraph 277 in [Part 8](#) of the Immigration Rules.

Polygamous relationships

Applications made by dependent partners who are married to or in a civil partnership with the lead applicant must be refused if that relationship is polygamous and another person already holds permission as the spouse or civil partner of the lead applicant, regardless of whether that relationship has ended.

Applications made on the basis of a dependent child relationship should be refused if the child's parent is party to a polygamous marriage or civil partnership and any application by that parent would be refused as above.

Related rules

Paragraph 278 and paragraph 296 in [Part 8](#) of the Immigration Rules.

Relationship with the lead applicant

Dependent partners must be able to prove the relationship with the lead applicant, who must hold, or be being granted, permission in the route claimed to enable the dependant partner to apply.

Marriage certificates and Civil Partnership certificates can be used to demonstrate proof of relationship, but other documentation is also acceptable as proof of relationship. This could be, for example, a letter from a registrar or government authority from the country in which the marriage was contracted confirming that it was registered properly.

Where the applicants are unmarried or not in a civil partnership, satisfactory evidence provided to meet the relationship requirements below is likely to also satisfy this requirement.

If a dependent partner has previously been granted permission as a dependant of the lead applicant, they do not need to provide this evidence again.

Related rules

CRV 13.1, CW 12.1, GAE 15.1, GT 19.1, HPI 13.1, IA 25.1, SNR 17.1, GTR 17.1, UKX 17.1, SSU 17.1, SEC 15.1, INN 26.1, MOR 21.1, ROB 23.1, RW 12.1, ISP 23.1, SU 16.1, SW 29.1, UKA 21.1.

Genuine and subsisting requirement

You must be satisfied the lead applicant and their dependent partner are in a genuine and subsisting relationship.

If the lead applicant and the dependent partner are married or in a civil partnership, acceptable forms of evidence include:

- a valid document providing record of the marriage or civil partnership such as a marriage or civil partnership certificate
- a valid overseas registration document for a same-sex relationship which is entitled to be treated as a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership Act of 2004

Where the applicants are unmarried or not in a civil partnership, this requirement should be considered based on the evidence provided to meet the relationship requirements below.

Related rules

CRV 13.3, CW 12.3, GAE 15.3, GT 19.3, HPI 13.3, IA 25.3, SNR 17.3, GTR 17.3, UKX 17.3, SSU 17.3, SEC 15.3, INN 26.3, MOR 21.3, ROB 23.3, RW 12.3, ISP 23.3, SU 16.3, SW 29.3, UKA 21.3.

2-year unmarried partner requirement

If the lead applicant and the person applying as a dependent partner are not married or in a civil partnership, they can demonstrate their relationship by providing evidence they have lived together for 2 years before the date of application. This can include:

- bank / building society statements, council tax, or utility bills
- residential mortgage statements or tenancy agreements
- official correspondence or documents that link the lead applicant and their partner and show they are living at the same address

This is not an exhaustive list and other documents can be used to demonstrate a relationship is genuine and subsisting.

The 2-year period of living together for a couple who are not married or in a civil partnership must normally have been completed immediately prior to the date of application.

However, the 2-year period does not have to have been completed immediately preceding the date of application if, for example (this is not an exhaustive list):

- the couple are currently living apart for work reasons
- one of the couple needs to attend training in another territory
- one partner demonstrates they have significant caring responsibilities,

provided that the relationship has existed continuously since the 2-year period of co-habitation and continues to be genuine and subsisting at the date of application.

The applicant must demonstrate that:

- it was not reasonably possible for the other partner to accompany or join them and
- there is evidence that the relationship continued throughout that period, for example, by visits, letters, logged phone calls, shared financial accounts.

Any refusal must be discussed with an Entry Clearance Manager (ECM)/HEO Technical Specialist or a Senior Caseworker to agree that it is not unreasonable.

Related rules

CRV 13.2, CW 12.2, GAE 15.2, GT 19.2, HPI 13.2, IA 25.2, SNR 17.2, GTR 17.2, UKX 17.2, SSU 17.2, SEC 15.2, INN 26.2, MOR 21.2, ROB 23.2, RW 12.2, ISP 23.2, SU 16.2, SW 29.2, UKA 21.2.

Intention to live together

The lead applicant and the dependent partner must intend to live together throughout their stay in the UK. There should be evidence of a clear commitment from both parties that they will live together in the UK immediately following the outcome of the application in question or as soon as circumstances permit thereafter, and "intends to live together" shall be construed accordingly.

If one party needs to travel for work purposes, this is allowed. You should consider such co-location as reasonable for a genuine and subsisting relationship.

Related rules

CRV 13.4, CW 12.4, GAE 15.4, GT 19.4, HPI 13.4, IA 25.4, SNR 17.4, GTR 17.4, UKX 17.4, SSU 17.4, SEC 15.4, INN 26.4, MOR 21.4, ROB 23.4, RW 12.4, ISP 23.4, SU 16.4, SW 29.4, UKA 21.4.

Child requirements

You should note:

- some requirements apply to all applications
- some to those aged under 18 only
- some to those aged 16 and over
- some to those aged 18 and over

You should ensure the requirements are correctly applied.

Parental relationship

All applicants

Dependent children must submit evidence they are related to the lead applicant as claimed. This can be evidenced by the child's birth certificate that shows the name of the child and parents; however, other documentation can also be used to evidence the parental relationship with the child.

Official documents issued by overseas governments may not always be in the same format as a UK birth certificate, but you can accept these if the document has been issued by a government or a court, clearly demonstrates a relationship, and is either in English or Welsh or is accompanied by a certified translation.

Acceptable evidence of a parental relationship for a dependent child can include:

- a full birth certificate, which includes the names of both parents
- a court order such as a special guardianship order
- a government issued household registration certificate

This doesn't represent an exhaustive list as other forms of documentation can be used to demonstrate the dependent child is a child of the lead applicant or the dependent partner or that the applicant has been appointed as the child's legal guardian.

There may also be circumstances where the lead applicant is not the natural parent but has assumed the parental role through circumstances such as de facto adoption. See also - [Children from previous relationships](#).

You cannot accept an affidavit as these are only evidence someone has made a sworn statement regarding a claimed relationship, and not evidence of that relationship by themselves.

Related rules

CRV 14.1, CW 13.1, GAE 16.1, GT 20.1, HPI 14.1, IA 26.1, SNR 18.1, GTR 18.1, UKX 18.1, SSU 18.1, SEC 16.1, INN 27.1, MOR 22.1, ROB 24.1, RW 13.1, ISP 24.1, SU 17.1, SW 30.1, UKA 22.1.

Parental immigration status requirement

Both parents of a dependent child applicant must be either applying at the same time as the applicant or have permission to be in the UK (other than as a visitor) unless one of the following applies:

- the parent with permission is the sole surviving parent
- the parent with permission has sole responsibility for the child's upbringing
- the parent who does not have permission is a British citizen or a person who has a right to enter or stay in the UK without restriction (and who therefore would not apply for permission) - such persons must, however, be (or will be) ordinarily resident in the UK

- you are satisfied there are serious and compelling reasons to grant the child entry clearance or permission to stay with the parent with permission

Exceptional circumstances - serious and compelling circumstances

While you should normally be satisfied that a child is either joining both parents, or the work or study migrant is the sole surviving parent, or has and has had sole responsibility, there may be exceptional cases where it is appropriate to issue entry clearance.

As with all decisions involving children, you must consider the best interests of the child and your safeguarding responsibilities in the spirit of section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, in particular that the parent who is not coming to the UK has given their written permission and that care arrangements are suitable.

The following list is not exhaustive, but are examples of scenarios where it may be judged that there are serious and compelling reasons to grant the child entry clearance or permission to stay with the parent with permission:

- due to employment or study commitments, one parent is delaying their entry to the UK
- one parent is travelling to a territory for reasonable purposes which makes it impossible to care for the child or children for example the father/mother is travelling to a country where it would not be safe for the child or children to join them
- one parent is travelling to a territory for reasonable purposes on a short-term basis such that it would be unreasonable to expect care/schooling arrangements to be made for the short length of the trip
- one parent is receiving medical treatment abroad and plans to join the family later

Related rules

CRV 14.2, CW 13.2, GAE 16.2, GT 20.2, HPI 14.2, IA 26.2, SNR 18.2, GTR 18.2, UKX 18.2, SSU 18.2, SEC 16.2, INN 27.2, MOR 22.2, ROB 24.2, RW 13.2, ISP 24.2, SU 17.2, SW 30.2, UKA 22.2.

UK born child requirements

If a child makes a first application for permission to stay, having been born in the UK, they must provide a full birth certificate showing the names of both parents.

If the birth certificate has been accepted on a previous application, it does not need to be provided again.

Related rules

CRV 14.3, CW 13.3, GAE 16.3, HPI 14.3, IA 26.3, SNR 18.3, GTR 18.3, UKX 18.3, SSU 18.3, SEC 16.3, MOR 22.3, RW 13.3, ISP 24.3, SW 30.3.

Child dependant aged 18 or over

Previous permission as a dependent child

A person applying as a dependent child who is aged 18 or over on the date of application must only be granted permission if:

- they are making an application for permission as a dependant of their parent or parents having last held permission as a dependant of their parent or parents
- they are not leading an independent life

If the applicant is aged 18 or over when they make their first application as the child of the family unit they should be refused. There may be circumstances where permission may be granted outside of the Immigration Rules, see [Exceptional dependant applications](#) for further information.

Related rules

Previous grant as a child

CRV 16.1, CW 15.1, GAE 18.1, GT 22.1, HPI 15.1, IA 28.1, SNR 20.1, GTR 20.1, UKX 20.1, SSU 20.1, SEC 18.1, INN 29.1, MOR 25.1, ROB 26.1, RW 15.1, ISP 26.1, SU 19.1, SW 32.1, UKA 24.1.

Not leading an independent life – See below for children aged 16 or over

CRV 16.2, CW 15.2, GAE 18.2, GT 22.2, HPI 15.2, IA 28.2, SNR 20.2, GTR 20.2, UKX 20.2, SSU 20.2, SEC 18.2, INN 29.2, MOR 25.2, ROB 26.2, RW 15.2, ISP 26.2, SU 19.2, SW 32.2, UKA 24.2.

Child dependant aged 16 or over

Child leading an independent life

A dependent child aged 16 or over on the date of application must not be leading an independent life. They must still be wholly or mainly financially dependent on the lead applicant or their dependent partner. They cannot be married or in a civil partnership. You should assess all evidence provided with an application to decide if a child is still dependent on their parent or parents.

The following list suggests evidence that could be used to demonstrate the dependent child is living with the lead applicant or their dependent partner and relies on them for financial support:

- bank or building society statement (which may show funds that their parent is providing to support them)
- credit card bills
- driving licence

- NHS registration document
- an official letter from their current school, college or university that confirms their address

This is not an exhaustive list.

If a dependent child pays rent or board, they must evidence the amount they pay each month.

If a dependent child is not living with the family unit due to attending school, college or university, you will need to see further evidence the child is not leading an independent life. If the dependent child is living at a separate address, you must be satisfied this is due to study elsewhere. Evidence of this can include:

- official confirmation of their studies from their school, college or university
- evidence that they are being financially supported by their parents up to the point they are applying (for example, evidence covering a 3-month period prior to the application)

Related rules

CRV 16.2, CW 15.2, GAE 18.2, GT 22.2, HPI 15.2, IA 28.2, SNR 20.2, GTR 20.2, UKX 20.2, SSU 20.2, SEC 18.2, INN 29.2, MOR 25.2, ROB 26.2, RW 15.2, ISP 26.2, SU 19.2, SW 32.2, UKA 24.2.

Care requirement

You must be satisfied the applicant will be living with the lead applicant and any dependent partner in a suitable care arrangement that meets relevant UK legislation, unless they are aged 18 or over.

All arrangements for children's care and accommodation in the UK must comply with relevant UK legislation and regulations.

You must also consider your Section 55 duty to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children aged under 18.

If you have concerns over child welfare you should discuss the application with a manager.

Related rules

CRV 15.1, CW 14.1, GAE 17.1, GT 21.1, HPI 16.1, IA 27.1, SNR 19.1, GTR 19.1, UKX 19.1, SSU 19.1, SEC 17.1, INN 28.1, MOR 24.1, ROB 25.1, RW 14.1, ISP 25.1, SU 18.1, SW 31.1, UKA 23.1.

Financial requirements

Unless the route requires evidence of adequate [maintenance and accommodation](#) for the applicant (Representative of an Overseas Business and UK Ancestry) the following funds must be available to support the application – unless an applicant is applying for permission to stay and has been living in the UK with permission for 12 months or longer on the date of application:

- £285 for a dependent partner
- £315 for the first dependent child
- £200 for any other dependent child

Family members of people who have settled or have been granted British citizenship cannot have maintenance certified by a sponsor and must always show cash funds.

Please refer to Finance requirement guidance for guidance on this part of the application.

Insufficient funds demonstrated

If the evidence provided does not show sufficient funds to support the whole family unit, all applications should be refused.

Related rules

CRV 17.3, CW 16.3, GAE 19.3, HPI 17.3, IA 29.3, SNR 21.3, GTR 21.3, UKX 21.3, SSU 21.3, SEC 19.3, INN 30.2A, MOR 25.3, RW 16.3, ISP 27.3, SU 20.2A, SW 33.3.

Funds not shown by sponsor

Applications on Temporary Worker routes, the Global Business Mobility routes, the T2 Minister of Religion route, the International Sportsperson route, the Scale-up route and the Skilled Worker route can rely on support from their sponsor. If this is claimed, but not sufficiently demonstrated the application can be refused.

Related rules

CRV 17.2(b), CW 16.2(b), IA 29.2(b), SNR 21.2(b), GTR 21.2(b), UKX 21.2(b), SSU 21.2(b), SEC 19.2(b), GAE 19.2(b), MOR 25.2(b), RW 16.2(b), ISP 27.2(b), SW 33.2(b).

Attempt to use funds more than once

The funds held for each applicant must be held in addition to any funds required for the lead applicant and any other dependants in the UK or applying at the same time.

Related rules

CRV 17.4, CW 16.4, GAE 19.4, HPI 17.4, IA 29.4, SNR 21.4, GTR 21.4, UKX 21.4, SSU 21.4, SEC 19.4, INN 30.3, MOR 25.4, RW 16.4, ISP 27.4, SU 20.3, SW 33.4.

Funds not held for 28 days

Funds must have been held for a 28-day period and as specified in [Appendix Finance](#).

Related rules

CRV 17.5, CW 16.5, GAE 19.5, HPI 17.5, IA 29.5, SNR 21.5, GTR 21.5, UKX 21.5, SSU 21.5, SEC 19.5, INN 30.4, MOR 25.5, RW 16.5, ISP 27.5, SU 20.4, SW 33.5, UKA 25.2, UKA 33.2.

Failure to maintain and accommodate

Applications on the Representative of an Overseas Business route and the UK Ancestry route require that you are satisfied the family unit can maintain and accommodate themselves without recourse to public funds. Third-party support is also allowed on UK Ancestry applications.

If the evidence provided shows the family unit needs to access public funds, or you judge there are insufficient funds, the application should be refused.

Related rules

ROB 27.1, UKA 25.1, UKA 25.3, UKA 33.1, UKA 33.3.

Criminal record certificate requirement

Where a Skilled Worker is being sponsored for a job in an occupation code listed below, an applicant applying for entry clearance as the partner of the Skilled Worker must provide a criminal record certificate from the relevant authority in any country in which they have been present for 12 months or more (whether continuously or in total) in the 10 years before the date of application, and while aged 18 or over.

- 1181 Health services and public health managers and directors
- 1184 Social services managers and directors
- 1241 Health care practice managers
- 1242 Residential, day and domiciliary care managers and proprietors
- 2211 Medical practitioners
- 2212 Psychologists
- 2213 Pharmacists
- 2214 Ophthalmic opticians
- 2215 Dental practitioners
- 2217 Medical radiographers
- 2218 Podiatrists
- 2219 Health professionals not elsewhere classified
- 2221 Physiotherapists
- 2222 Occupational therapists

- 2223 Speech and language therapists
- 2229 Therapy professionals not elsewhere classified
- 2231 Nurses
- 2232 Midwives
- 2312 Further education teaching professionals
- 2314 Secondary education teaching professionals
- 2315 Primary and nursery education teaching professionals
- 2316 Special needs education teaching professionals
- 2317 Senior professionals of educational establishments
- 2318 Education advisers and school inspectors
- 2319 Teaching and other educational professionals not elsewhere classified
- 2442 Social workers
- 2443 Probation officers
- 2449 Welfare professionals not elsewhere classified
- 3213 Paramedics
- 3216 Dispensing opticians
- 3217 Pharmaceutical technicians
- 3218 Medical and dental technicians
- 3219 Health associate professionals not elsewhere classified
- 3231 Youth and community workers
- 3234 Housing officers
- 3235 Counsellors
- 3239 Welfare and housing associate professionals not elsewhere classified
- 3443 Fitness instructors
- 3562 Human resources and industrial relations officers
- 6121 Nursery nurses and assistants
- 6122 Childminders and related occupations
- 6123 Playworkers
- 6125 Teaching assistants
- 6126 Educational support assistants
- 6141 Nursing auxiliaries and assistants
- 6143 Dental nurses
- 6144 Houseparents and residential wardens
- 6146 Senior care workers

The requirement above does not apply if the applicant provides a satisfactory explanation why it is not reasonably practicable for them to obtain a criminal record certificate from any or all of the relevant authorities.

Related rules

SW 34.1.

Overseas business requirement

If the lead applicant is a Sole Representative, the dependant must not have a majority stake in, or otherwise own or control a majority of the overseas business the lead applicant represents, whether ownership or control is by means of a shareholding, partnership agreement, sole proprietorship or any other arrangement.

Related rules

ROB 28.1.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Settlement requirements

Only the following routes allow settlement applications for dependants:

- Skilled Worker
- T2 Minister of Religion
- International Sportsperson
- Representative of an Overseas Business
- UK Ancestry
- Global Talent
- Innovator
- Scale-up
- International Agreement - Private Servant in a diplomatic household only

There is no requirement to pay the Immigration Health Charge.

Validity requirements - Settlement

Applications must have been made on the correct form.

Related rules

IA 32.1, INN 33.1, MOR 28.2, ROB 31.1, ISP 30.1, SW 37.1, UKA 28.1.

Applications should meet all the following requirements:

- any fee must have been paid
- the applicant must have provided any required biometrics
- the applicant must have provided a passport or other travel document which satisfactorily establishes their identity and nationality
- the applicant must be in the UK on the date of application

Related rules

GT 25.2, IA 32.2, INN 33.2, MOR 28.2, ROB 31.2, ISP 30.2, SW 37.2, UKA 28.2.

Switching – UK Ancestry settlement

An applicant who is in the UK and applying to switch into the UK Ancestry route as a dependant is unable to do so if they have, or were last granted, permission on any of the routes listed below:

- as a Visitor
- as a Short-term Student
- as a Parent of a Child Student
- as a Seasonal Worker

- as a Domestic worker in a Private Household
- outside the Immigration Rules

There may be exceptional reasons that someone in those circumstances should be allowed to switch to be a dependant, and this should be considered on a case by case basis outside the Immigration Rules.

Related rules

UKA 28.3.

Unconnected settlement application

Any application for settlement as the dependant of a person on the International Agreement route can only be validated if the dependant was previously granted permission as a dependant in the specified route.

Some other routes are subject to an [eligibility requirement](#) regarding the previous grant of permission.

Related rules

IA 32.3

Suitability requirements - Settlement

Grounds for refusal

The applicant must not fall for refusal under the grounds for refusal.

The grounds for refusal are divided into 5 sections:

1. Defining which Rules are subject to the grounds for refusal.
2. Grounds for refusal, or cancellation of, entry clearance, permission to enter and permission to stay.
3. Additional grounds for refusal of entry, or cancellation of entry clearance or permission, on arrival in the UK.
4. Additional grounds for refusal, or cancellation, of permission to stay.
5. Additional grounds for cancellation of entry clearance, permission to enter and permission to stay which apply to specified routes.

You should check which Rules are appropriate for the type of application you are considering.

Related rules

GT 26.1, IA 33.1, INN 34.1, MOR 29.1, ROB 32.1, ISP 31.1, SW 38.1, UKA 29.1.

Overstaying

Before considering any application, you must check the applicant is not in breach of immigration laws, except for periods of overstaying which can be disregarded under the Immigration Rules.

You should not take into account any breaches of the Immigration Rules whilst the applicant was under the age of 18.

Full guidance on overstaying is available.

Immigration bail

A person applying for settlement must not be on immigration bail. A foreign national can apply for immigration bail if the Home Office is holding them on immigration matters. This means they might be released from immigration detention, but they will have to obey at least one condition. These individuals do not hold permission to be in the UK.

Further details can be found at: [Immigration detention bail](#).

Related rules

GT 26.2, IA 33.2, INN 34.2, MOR 29.2, ROB 32.2, ISP 31.2, SW 38.2, UKA 29.2.

Eligibility requirements - Settlement

Eligibility requirements for settlement should be considered based on the following:

Lead applicant settled status requirement

The lead applicant must either:

- be being granted settlement at the same time as the applicant
- have previously been granted settlement while holding permission on the relevant immigration route
- have become a British citizen, having previously been granted settlement while holding permission on the relevant immigration route

Note that if lead applicants may have become British citizens without first being granted settlement dependants are allowed to apply in these circumstances, provided the lead applicant had permission on the relevant route at the time they became a British citizen.

Related rules

GT 27.1, IA 34.1, INN 35.1, MOR 30.1, ROB 33.1, ISP 32.1, SW 39.1, UKA 30.1.

Last grant settlement requirement

Unless the applicant is a child who was born in the UK before the lead applicant settled, the dependant must have previously been granted permission as the dependant partner or child of the lead applicant. This permission could be in a different route.

This applies to Global Talent, Innovator, Representative of an Overseas Business, International Sportsperson and Skilled Worker.

Applications under some other routes are subject to a [validity requirement](#) regarding the previous grant of permission.

Related rules

GT 27.2, INN 35.2, ROB 33.1A, ISP 32.2, SW 39.2.

Dependent Partners qualifying period

Dependent partners of Global Talent, International Agreement Workers, Innovator, T2 Minister of Religion, International Sportsperson and Skilled Worker lead applicants must complete a 5-year qualifying period before they qualify for settlement.

If the lead applicant has settlement on the basis of long residence, including where they have subsequently naturalised as British citizens, their partner cannot extend their permission or gain settlement as a dependant under the routes this guidance relates to and must switch into the partner of a settled person category and apply for permission to stay. For more information see Appendix FM guidance.

Where the lead applicant has been granted British citizenship, their dependants can still apply if they held permission as dependants at the time.

If the lead applicant is being granted settlement in, gained settlement through or has been granted citizenship following, UK Ancestry or Representative of an Overseas Business permission, the dependant may apply for settlement without completing a qualifying period and provided they can switch into the route.

5-year permission requirement: partners

Those who are required to complete a [qualifying period](#) must have spent a continuous period of 5 years in the UK with permission as a dependent partner of the lead applicant.

Related rules

GT 30.1, IA 35.1, INN 38.1, MOR 33.1, ISP 35.1, SW 42.1.

5-year residence requirement: partners

Those who are required to complete a [qualifying period](#) must meet the continuous residence requirement as set out in Appendix Continuous Residence during the qualifying period.

You must not include any absence from the UK during periods of permission granted under the Immigration Rules in place before 11 January 2018 towards the 180 days allowable absences. For example, if a dependent partner's qualifying period includes initial permission granted from 1 February 2015 to 31 January 2018, and an extension granted from 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2020, you must not count any absences before 1 February 2018.

Related rules

GT 31.1, IA 36.1, INN 39.1, MOR 34.1, ISP 36.1, SW 43.1.

5-year partner requirement

Those applying as a dependant of a Skilled Worker or a Scale-up Worker must meet the [relationship requirements](#) above and must have met them throughout the 5 years ending on the date of application.

Those applying as a dependant on the International Agreement route must have been living together in the UK in a marriage or civil partnership, or in a relationship similar to marriage or civil partnership, for the 5 years immediately before the date of application.

Related rules

IA 34.2, SW 39.3.

Child settlement requirements

Dependent children are not subject to limits on absences.

Both parents' settlement requirement

In an application to settle as a dependent child, both parents must be either being granted settlement at the same time as the applicant or have previously been granted settlement due to permission in the related immigration route unless one of the following applies:

- the parent being granted settlement / with settlement granted due to permission in the related immigration route is the sole surviving parent
- the parent being granted settlement / with settlement granted due to permission in the related immigration route has sole responsibility for the child's upbringing

- you are satisfied there are serious and compelling reasons to grant the child settlement with the parent being granted settlement / with settlement granted due to permission in the related immigration route

Related rules

GT 27.3, IA 39.3, INN 35.3, MOR 30.2, ROB 33.2, ISP 32.3, SW 39.4, UKA 30.5.

Child dependant aged 18 or over

Previous permission as a dependent child

A person applying as a dependent child who is aged 18 or over on the date of application must only be granted permission if:

- they are making an application for permission as a dependant of their parent or parents having last held permission as a dependant of their parent or parents
- they are not leading an independent life

If the applicant is aged 18 or over when they make their first application as the child of the family unit they should be refused. There may be circumstances where permission may be granted outside of the Immigration Rules, see [Exceptional dependant applications](#) for further information.

Related rules

Previous grant as a child

GT 29.1, INN 37.1, MOR 31.1, ROB 35.1, ISP 34.1, SW 41.1, UKA 32.1.

Not leading an independent life – See below for children aged 16 or over

GT 29.2, IA 39.4, INN 37.1, MOR 31.2, ROB 35.2, ISP 34.2, SW 41.2, UKA 32.2.

Child dependant aged 16 or over

Child leading an independent life

A dependent child aged 16 or over on the date of application must not be leading an independent life. They must still be wholly or mainly financially dependent on the lead applicant or their dependent partner. They cannot be married or in a civil partnership. You should assess all evidence provided with an application to decide if a child is still dependent on their parent or parents.

The following list suggests evidence that could be used to demonstrate the dependent child is living with the lead applicant or their dependent partner and relies on them for financial support:

- bank or building society statement (which may show funds that their parent is providing to support them)

- credit card bills
- driving licence
- NHS registration document
- an official letter from their current school, college or university that confirms their address

This is not an exhaustive list.

If a dependent child pays rent or board, they must evidence the amount they pay each month.

If a dependent child is not living with the family unit due to attending school, college or university, you will need to see further evidence the child is not leading an independent life. If the dependent child is living at a separate address, you must be satisfied this is due to study elsewhere. Evidence of this can include:

- official confirmation of their studies from their school, college or university
- evidence that they are being financially supported by their parents up to the point they are applying (for example, evidence covering a 3-month period prior to the application)

Related rules

GT 29.2, IA 39.4, INN 37.1, MOR 31.2, ROB 35.2, ISP 34.2, SW 41.2, UKA 32.2.

Care requirement

You must be satisfied the applicant will be living with the lead applicant and any dependent partner in a suitable care arrangement that meets relevant UK legislation, unless they are aged 18 or over.

All arrangements for children's care and accommodation in the UK must comply with relevant UK legislation and regulations.

You must also consider your Section 55 duty to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children aged under 18.

If you have concerns over child welfare you should discuss the application with a manager.

Related rules

GT 28.1, INN 36.1, MOR 32.1, ROB 34.1, ISP 33.1, SW 40.1, UKA 31.1.

English language requirement

Anyone aged between 18 and 65 applying for settlement must demonstrate they have the equivalent of level B1 of the Common European Framework of References for English language.

This can be achieved in one of several ways:

- previously met this requirement on a successful application for permission
- is a national of a majority English speaking nation
- has an academic qualification which was taught in English
- has passed an approved SELT

And for those applying under Appendix Student, Appendix Skilled Worker, Appendix Start-up or Appendix Innovator:

- has GCSE, A level, Scottish National Qualification at level 4 or 5 or, Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher, in English (language or literature)

There is further guidance on how you must assess evidence that an applicant meets the English language requirement.

Related rules

GT 32.1, GT 32.2, IA 37.1, IA 37.2, IA 40.1, IA 40.2, INN 40.1, INN 40.2, MOR 35.1, MOR 35.2, ROB 36.1, ROB 36.2, ISP 37.1, ISP 37.2, SW 44.1, SW 44.2, UKA 34.1, UKA 34.2.

Knowledge of Life in the UK requirement

Anyone aged between 18 and 65 applying for settlement must have passed an approved 'Life in the UK' test as directed by [Appendix KoL UK](#).

Related rules

GT 33.1, IA 38.1, IA 41.1, INN 41.1, MOR 36.1, ROB 37.1, ISP 38.1, SW 45.1, UKA 35.1.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Grant permission: dependent partner or child

This section tells you how to grant permission for dependants.

eVisas

European Economic Area (EEA) nationals making an application using the UK Immigration: ID Check app will be given eVisas (previously known as digital status) if they are granted permission. Non-EEA nationals applying to switch routes or extend their visa from within the UK and who have previously enrolled suitable biometrics may also be permitted to use the ID check app and be given eVisas.

Other EEA and non-EEA nationals will be given a biometric residence permit if they are granted permission for longer than 6 months.

Duration of grant

If an applicant meets all the requirements to be granted permission as a dependant, they should be granted permission with an expiry date in line with the lead applicant's permission.

If they are a dependent child and one parent in the UK has permission that will expire before the other's, or one parent has settlement and the other does not, the dependent child should be granted in line with the expiry date of the parent whose permission expires first.

If the lead applicant has obtained settlement or British citizenship, permission to stay for their partner can be granted for either:

- 3 years for applications on the following routes: T2 Minister of Religion, International Sportsperson, Global Talent, Innovator, Scale-up or Skilled Worker
- 2 years for applications in line with Representative of an Overseas Business
- 30 months for applications in line with UK Ancestry

If both a child's parents have obtained settlement or British citizenship, permission to stay can be granted for either:

- 3 years for applications on the following routes: T2 Minister of Religion, International Sportsperson, Global Talent, Innovator, Scale-up or Skilled Worker
- 30 months for applications on the following routes: UK Ancestry or Representative of an Overseas Business

Conditions of grant

This section tells you the conditions of grant for people granted permission as the dependent partner or child.

Partners or children:

- are not allowed to access public funds
- must register with the police (if they are required to do so by [Part 10 of the Immigration Rules](#))
- can work in the UK, apart from the restriction explained below
- can study, subject to the ATAS condition in [Appendix ATAS if the applicant is over the age of 18](#)

For more information, see:

- public funds
- police registration
- [Part 10 of the Immigration Rules](#)

Employment for dependants

Work (including self-employment and voluntary work) is permitted, with the following exception.

A person with permission as a dependant cannot take employment as a professional sportsperson (including as a sports coach) unless they are a dependant of a person with UK Ancestry.

Study in a discipline covered by Appendix ATAS of the Immigration Rules

If the partner or child commences study, they will be subject to the ATAS condition limiting study. The condition prohibits study in a discipline covered by Appendix ATAS of the Immigration Rules, unless the individual obtains an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate for their course or research before they start it.

For more information, see: [Grant or refuse extension: partners](#).

Endorsement for entry clearance applications

If you are granting permission for an application for entry clearance to a dependent partner, you must use the appropriate endorsement based on the route the lead applicant is in:

- Temporary Worker - Creative Workers - CRV DEP. PARTNER
- Temporary Worker - Charity Workers - CW DEP. PARTNER
- Temporary Worker - Government Authorised Exchange Workers - GAE DEP. PARTNER
- Global Talent - GT DEP. PARTNER
- High Potential Individual – HPI DEP PARTNER
- International Agreement Workers - IA DEP. PARTNER
- Global Business Mobility - GLOBAL BUSINESS MOBILITY PARTNER
- Innovator - INN DEP. PARTNER
- T2 Minister of Religion - MOR DEP. PARTNER
- Representative of an Overseas Business - ROB DEP. PARTNER
- Temporary Worker - Religious Worker - RW DEP. PARTNER
- International Sportsperson - ISP DEP. PARTNER
- Start-up - SU DEP. PARTNER
- Skilled Worker - SW DEP. PARTNER
- UK Ancestry - UKA DEP. PARTNER

If you are granting permission for an application for entry clearance to a dependent child, you must use the appropriate endorsement based on the route the lead applicant is in:

- - CRV DEP. CHILD
- - CW DEP. CHILD
- - GAE DEP. CHILD
- - GT DEP. CHILD
- - HPI DEP CHILD
- - IA DEP. CHILD
- - GLOBAL BUSINESS MOBILITY CHILD
- - INN DEP. CHILD
- - MOR DEP. CHILD
- - ROB DEP. CHILD
- - RW DEP. CHILD
- - ISP DEP. CHILD
- - SU DEP. CHILD
- - SW DEP. CHILD
- - UKA DEP. CHILD

Related rules

Duration - Partner

CRV 19.1, CW 18.1, GAE 21.1, GT 24.1, HPI 19.1, IA 31.1, SNR 23.1, GTR 23.1, UKX 23.1, SSU 23.1, SEC 21.1, INN 32.1, MOR 27.1, ROB 30.1, RW 18.1, ISP 29.1, SU 22.1, SW 36.1.

Duration – Children

CRV 19.2, CW 18.2, GAE 21.2, GT 24.2, HPI 19.2, IA 31.2, SNR 23.2, GTR 23.2, UKX 23.2, SSU 23.2, SEC 21.2, INN 32.2, MOR 27.2, ROB 30.2, RW 18.2, ISP 29.2, SU 22.2, SW 36.2.

Duration – Partner or Children
UKA 27.1, UKA 27.2

Conditions
CRV 19.3, CW 18.3, GAE 21.3, GT 24.3, HPI 19.3, IA 31.3, SNR 23.3, GTR 23.3, UKX 23.3, SSU 23.3, SEC 23.3, INN 32.3, MOR 27.3, ROB 30.3, RW 18.3, ISP 29.3, SU 22.3, SW 36.3, UKA 27.3.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Dependant: refusal paragraphs

If you make the decision to refuse an application, the related paragraphs are listed at the bottom of each rules section.

Lines to be used in refusal notices can be found in this document Dependant refusal wording

Related content

[Contents](#)