

**This publication was
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This publication is no longer current and is not being updated.

This guidance is based on the Immigration Act 1971, the Immigration Rules and the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972.



Home Office

International armed forces: dependants

This guidance is based on Appendix Armed Forces of the Immigration Rules

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This guidance is based on the Immigration Act 1971, the Immigration Rules and the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972.

International armed forces: dependants

International armed forces dependants: about this guidance

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This guidance tells you about dependants of those non HM Forces personnel who are exempt from immigration control under section 8(4)(b) or (c) of the Immigration Act 1971 (the 1971 Act).

Within this guidance 'armed forces rules' means Appendix Armed Forces.

A member of an international force is an individual from a designated country listed in section 1 of the Visiting Forces Act who is serving, posted or training in the UK. See: Armed forces: exempt from immigration control

From 28 November 2015, eligible dependants of US Military personnel are exempt from immigration control by virtue of the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972 (as amended by the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 2015).

For the purposes of the Exemption Order 'eligible dependant' means:

- a person listed on the official order of the sponsor (and the sponsor is a serving member of the US military assigned to duty in the UK), and is either:
 - a spouse of the serving member of the US military
 - a child under the age of 21 on the date the child enters the UK accompanying the member or to join the member
- the dependant will not be exempt from immigration control if either:
 - they fail to meet the suitability requirements in Appendix Armed Forces of the immigration rules
 - they fail to provide evidence that their sponsor is able to maintain and accommodate them without recourse to public funds

Changes to this guidance - This page tells you what has changed since previous versions.

Contacts - This page tells you who to contact for help if your senior caseworker or deputy chief caseworker cannot answer your question.

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[Changes to this guidance](#)

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[Information owner](#)

Related links
Links to staff intranet removed

External links
[Immigration Act 1971, Section 8](#)

[Appendix Armed Forces](#)

[Immigration \(Exemption from Control\) Order 1972](#)

This guidance is based on the Immigration Act 1971, the Immigration Rules and the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972.

	<p>Information owner - This page tells you about this version of the document and who owns it.</p> <p>Safeguard and promote child welfare - This section explains your duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and tells you where to find more information.</p>	
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This guidance is based on the Immigration Act 1971, the Immigration Rules and the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972.

International armed forces: dependants

International armed forces dependants: key facts

This page tells you the key facts for dependants of international armed forces who seek leave to enter or remain.

Eligibility requirements	<p>Note: From 28 November 2015 eligible dependants (spouses and children under the age of 21 on arrival and complying with conditions) of US serving military are exempt from immigration control. See guidance on Armed Forces: Exempt from immigration control.</p> <p>Dependants of all other International Forces and other dependants (including children aged 21 or over) of US serving military) must meet the eligibility requirements of Part 10 of Appendix Armed Forces.</p> <p>Spouses, civil partners, unmarried or same sex partners (who have been living together for 2 years in a relationship akin to marriage or civil partnership) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be sponsored by a serving member of the international armed forces who is exempt from control under section 8(4) of the Immigration Act 1971 but not a member of HM Forces• show that both parties are 18 years old or over• intend to live together during their stay in the UK• be in a genuine and subsisting relationship with their sponsor• be adequately maintained and accommodated without recourse to public funds• leave the UK at the end of the sponsor's posting <p>Children must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be under 18 years of age at the date of application• not be married• not be in a civil partnership• not have formed an independent family unit or be living an independent life• be adequately maintained and accommodated without recourse to public funds• leave the UK at the end of the sponsor's posting <p>Children must also meet one of the following criteria:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their other parent must also be a member of the international armed forces who is exempt from immigration control • their other parent must have been granted leave to enter or remain under Part 10 of Appendix Armed Forces or paragraph 276AE of the rules • their other parent must have died • the parent they are seeking to join has sole responsibility for their upbringing • there are serious and compelling family or other considerations which make exclusion from the UK undesirable and suitable arrangements have been made for the child's care <p>Other dependants (including children over the age of 18) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be named on any movement or posting order • show that they have access to adequate maintenance and accommodation • leave the UK with the sponsor on completion of the sponsor's posting
Application forms	<p>Visa4UK</p> <p>Extension (within the UK) – FLR(O)</p>
Cost of application:	Home Office - Fees for our services
Entry clearance mandatory?	<p>Yes, if applicant is a visa national or seeking entry for more than 6 months.</p> <p>No, if applicant is a non-visa national seeking leave to enter for 6 months or less.</p> <p>Eligible dependants of US serving military are exempt from immigration control.</p>
Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK?	Yes, unless the applicant is an eligible dependant of US serving military who is exempt from immigration control under the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972.
Code of leave to remain granted	1 - if subject to immigration control
Entry clearance endorsements	Leave to enter endorsements and codes
Conditions of leave to remain	No access to public funds
How long is leave to remain normally granted for?	5 years
Are dependants allowed?	No
Work and study allowed?	Yes
Switching into this category allowed?	Yes
Does this category lead to	No

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settlement (indefinite leave to enter/remain)?	
Is knowledge of language and life required?	No
Immigration Rules paragraphs	Part 10 Appendix Armed Forces Immigration Act 1971

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International armed forces: dependants

International armed forces dependants: changes to this guidance

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[Leave to remain in the UK](#)

This page lists changes to the 'International armed forces: dependants' guidance, with the most recent at the top.

Date of the change	Details of the change
27 November 2015	Changes made throughout the guidance to reflect the amendment to the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972, where eligible dependants of US serving military personnel posted to the UK became exempt from immigration control.
6 January 2015	Change request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• minor housekeeping changes
21 November 2014	Change request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• changes made throughout the guidance to reflect the rules change of 6 November 2014
20 June 2014	Change request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners and children: entry requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ new sub-heading 'Dependants over 18' and content below• Leave to remain in the UK:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ new sub-heading 'Dependants over 18' and content below

Related links

[Partners and children: entry requirements](#)

[Leave to remain in the UK](#)

[Contact](#)

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International armed forces: dependants

International armed forces dependants: eligibility

<p>About this guidance Key facts Eligibility Rights of admission Partners and children: entry requirements Leave to remain in the UK</p>	<p>This page tells you about the entry and extension requirements for dependants of international armed forces personnel. For guidance on eligible dependants of serving US military personnel see Armed Forces: Exempt from immigration control.</p> <p>Before considering an application you must check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the application is valid• the applicant's passport or travel document is genuine• there are no grounds for refusal under the suitability requirements <p>For guidance on suitability requirements see section below: Suitability criteria.</p> <p>For more information, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specified application forms and procedures• General grounds for refusal <p>Eligibility</p> <p>Partners must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be a partner of a serving member of an international force exempt from immigration control• show both parties are 18 years old or over• intend to live together during their stay in the UK• show the relationship is genuine and subsisting• be adequately maintained and accommodated without recourse to public funds• intend to leave the UK at the end of the sponsor's posting <p>A child must:</p>	<p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Act 1971, Section 8</p> <p>Appendix Armed Forces Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972</p>
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- be a child of a member of an international force exempt from immigration control
- be under 18 years of age at the date of application
- leave the UK at the end of the sponsor's posting
- be maintained and accommodated adequately without recourse to public funds in accommodation that their parents own or occupy exclusively

Child applicants must also provide evidence to show they:

- are not married
- are not in a civil partnership
- have not formed an independent family unit
- are not living an independent life

Children must also meet one of the following criteria:

- their other parent must also be a member of international forces who is exempt from immigration control
- their other parent must have been granted (or be being granted at the same time as the applicant) leave to enter or remain under part 10 of Appendix Armed Forces or paragraph 276AE of the rules
- their other parent must be exempt from immigration control
- their other parent must have died
- the parent they are seeking to join has sole responsibility for their upbringing
- there are serious and compelling family or other considerations which make exclusion from the UK undesirable and suitable arrangements have been made for the child's care

Other dependants - part 10 of appendix Armed Forces allows for other dependants (including adult children) to be granted entry clearance or leave as a dependant if:

- they are named on the original movement or posting order
- there will be adequate maintenance and accommodation
- they will leave the UK with the sponsor on completion of the sponsor's posting, tour

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of duty or study

Suitability criteria

All applicants must meet the suitability criteria of Appendix Armed Forces. If the applicant fails to meet the suitability requirements, the caseworker must refuse the application.

Applications under Appendix Armed Forces must meet the same suitability requirements as those under [Appendix FM](#), plus the requirements of the following paragraphs from the General grounds for refusal: 320(3), 320(7B), 320(10), 320(11), 320(13), 321(iii), 321(4A), 322(2), 322(3) and 323(i).

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International armed forces: dependants

International armed forces: partners and children: entry clearance or entry requirements

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[Partners and children:
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This page tells you the documentation an applicant must show in order to meet the entry requirements to come to the UK as a dependant of an international force who is exempt from immigration control.

For guidance on eligible dependants of serving US military personnel, see Armed forces: exempt from immigration control

Applicant is a partner

A partner must show they are sponsored by a serving armed forces member of an international force who is exempt from immigration control under the 1971 Act. Partners must be named on a recent movement order and must provide:

- a movement order and/or letter from their sponsor's unit confirming the date of the sponsor's training, posting or service in the UK and the expected length of their stay
- evidence of their marriage or civil partnership (including the original marriage or civil partnership certificate)
- evidence that they have lived together in a relationship akin to marriage or civil partnership for at least 2 years immediately before the date of application
- evidence that:
 - they intend to live together during their stay in the UK
 - the relationship is genuine and subsisting
 - they intend to leave the UK at the end of their sponsor's posting
 - they can be maintained and accommodated adequately without recourse to public funds

Applicant is a child

A child must show they are sponsored by a serving armed forces member of an international force who is exempt from immigration control under the 1971 Act. They must also provide:

External links

[Immigration Act 1971,
Section 8.](#)

[Armed Forces Act 2006,
section 367](#)

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- a letter from their sponsor's unit confirming the date of the sponsor's training, posting or service in the UK and the expected length of their stay
- evidence that their other parent is also exempt from immigration control or has been granted leave to enter or remain under appendix Armed Forces or paragraph 276AE of the Immigration Rules or is being granted leave to enter at the same time, or one of the following:
 - their other parent has died
 - the parent they are joining has sole responsibility for their upbringing
 - there are serious and compelling family or other considerations which make it undesirable to refuse entry

Child applicants must also provide evidence to show they:

- are not married
- are not in a civil partnership
- have not formed an independent family unit and are not living an independent life
- will be adequately maintained and accommodated without recourse to public funds in property owned or occupied solely by their parents
- intend to leave the UK at the end of their sponsor's posting

Other dependants (including children over 18)

Other dependants must provide evidence to show they:

- are included on any movement or posting order
- can be maintained and accommodated by the sponsor without recourse to public funds
- intend to leave the UK with the sponsor on completion of the sponsor's employment

Entry Clearance

The applicant must:

- be outside the UK
- have submitted a valid application for entry clearance as the partner of a member of international armed forces

This guidance is based on the Immigration Act 1971, the Immigration Rules and the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972.

- meet all the requirements of paragraph 64 of Appendix Armed Forces

Endorsements

Type of Application - Exempt

Purpose of Application - Exempt

Type of application - Member of MVF or dependant.

This endorsement must not be used for eligible dependants of serving US military personnel.

For more information, see [Armed Forces: Exempt from immigration control](#).

Conditions of entry

Entry clearance may be issued on code 1 (employment permitted, no access to public funds) in the following circumstances:

- if the applicant is accompanying the sponsor on posting and it is stated on the sponsor's movement order that their posting is extendable – grant for 5 years
- if the applicant is joining or accompanying a sponsor who has already commenced their extendable UK posting – grant up to the 5 years from the start date of sponsor's UK posting
- if the sponsor has already spent 5 years in the UK on continuous posting – grant in line with the details on extended posting order
- where a posting order indicates a specific end date or length of posting and there is no indication that this is extendable – grant in line with the posting expiry date to a maximum of 5 years

Please note: US Forces have informed the Home Office that all their postings are extendable to 5 years.

Leave to enter

A non-visa national who is the dependant of a member of an international armed force posted or serving in the UK may seek entry without entry clearance under part 10 of Appendix Armed Forces, provided they:

This guidance is based on the Immigration Act 1971, the Immigration Rules and the Immigration (Exemption from Control) Order 1972.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• are a non visa national• are outside the UK• meet all the requirements of paragraph 64 of appendix Armed Forces• are seeking entry for a period of less than 6 months <p>Endorsements Leave to enter should be granted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• for 6 months• on code 1 (employment permitted, no access to public funds)	
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International armed forces: dependants

International armed forces dependants: leave to remain in the UK

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This page tells you how to grant or refuse an extension of stay in the UK for dependants of international forces.

Granting leave to remain

The applicant must:

- be in the UK
- have submitted a valid application for leave to remain (on form FLR(O)) as the partner, child or other dependant of a member of international armed forces
- meet all the requirements of paragraph 66 of appendix Armed Forces
- not be in the UK in breach of immigration laws, except for any period of overstaying for 28 days or less which will be disregarded

You must grant the applicant leave to remain as a dependant of a member of an international force exempt from immigration control under the 1971 Act if all the requirements of paragraph 66 of appendix Armed Forces are met. You must grant:

- up to 5 years from the start date of the sponsor's UK posting where the posting is extendable
- if the sponsor has already spent 5 years in the UK on continuous posting, in line with details on extended posting order
- where a posting order indicates a specific end date or length of posting and there is no indication that this is extendable, in line with the posting expiry date to a maximum of 5 years

For eligibility to this category see link on left.

Conditions of Stay

Code 1- employment permitted, no access to public funds.

Related links

Links to staff intranet removed

External links

[Immigration Act 1971, Section 8](#)

[Appendix Armed Forces](#)

[Immigration \(Exemption from Control\) Order 1972](#)

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	<p>Switching Appendix Armed Forces allows for a dependant of a serving member of an international armed force to be granted leave to remain if they entered the UK in another immigration category. This includes those who entered as visitors.</p> <p>Refusals An applicant must be refused if they fail to meet all the requirements of paragraph 66 of Appendix Armed Forces and/or fail under the suitability requirements.</p> <p>Applications under Appendix Armed Forces must meet the same suitability requirements as those under Appendix FM, plus the requirements of the following paragraphs from the General grounds for refusal: 320(3), 320(7B), 320(10), 320(11), 320(13), 321(iii), 321(4A), 322(2), 322(3) and 323(i).</p>	
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International armed forces: dependants

International armed forces: contacts

<p>About this guidance Key facts Eligibility Rights of admission Partners and children: entry requirements Leave to remain in the UK</p>	<p>This page explains who to contact for more help with a specific case involving a dependant of a member of an international armed force or eligible dependant of serving US military.</p> <p>If you have read the relevant Immigration Rules and this guidance and still need more help with this category, you must first ask your entry clearance manager, senior caseworker or line manager.</p> <p>If the question cannot be answered at that level, you may email the following (quoting who you have sought advice from):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• for caseworkers and entry clearance officers, email armed forces policy• for Border Force officers, email BF OAS enquiries <p>Changes to this guidance can only be made by the guidance, rules and forms team (GRaFT). If you think the policy content needs amending you must contact the armed forces policy team who will ask the GRaFT to update the guidance, if appropriate.</p> <p>The MGT will accept direct feedback on broken links, missing information or the format, style and navigability of this guidance. You can send these to Guidance - making changes.</p>	<p>Related links Changes to this guidance Information owner</p> <p>External links</p>
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This page tells you about this version of the 'International armed forces: dependants' guidance and who owns it.

Version	5.0
Valid from date	27 November 2015
Policy owner	Official – sensitive: information removed
Cleared by director	Official – sensitive: information removed
Director's role	Official – sensitive: information removed
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Approval date	16 November 2015

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