



Home Office

Grenfell Tower – Relatives (guidance on handling extensions of leave from relatives of those directly affected by the Grenfell fire)

Version 5.0

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About this guidance

This guidance tells UK Visas and Immigration and Immigration Enforcement staff how to consider requests for extensions of stay for up to 6 months under or in-line with the Grenfell relatives' policy

This guidance is also intended to give clarity to those relatives who seek to extend their stay in the UK to participate in the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry.

This guidance sets out the Grenfell relatives' policy. The Grenfell relatives' policy is for family of those directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire who:

- were last granted leave to enter of less than 6 months outside of the Immigration Rules to support a survivor of the fire or make funeral arrangements for a victim of the fire, who wish to extend their stay for a total period of 6 months from their date of entry to the UK
- wish to extend their stay beyond an initial or subsequent period of 6 months, because they are called as a witness or have core participant (CP) status in the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry

The specific Grenfell relatives' policy however, does not apply to all relatives. This guidance does not cover:

- relatives of those who were not directly affected by the fire
- those applying for further leave under the Grenfell Tower immigration policy for survivors
- those who do not fall within one of the categories set out in ['who can be considered under this policy'](#)

The guidance instead sign-posts relatives to other policies for entry clearance or leave to remain. A relative may instead wish to consider whether they meet the requirements for leave to remain under a different immigration category. Further information on immigration routes can be found on the [visas and immigration pages of GOV.UK](#).

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you or you think that the guidance has factual errors, then email the Family Policy 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 you 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 **14 June 2019**

Changes from last version of this guidance

To clarify that where a relative requests an extension of stay under this policy before their current leave expires, the conditions associated with their previous grant of leave remain in place until the request is finally determined.

To clarify what study a relative may undertake whilst in the UK with leave under or in-line with this policy.

To clarify that relatives who hold leave under or in-line with this policy are able to travel in and out of the UK once a request to extend stay is granted and during the currency of their leave to enter or remain.

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Relatives of those directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire

Background

The devastating fire which took place on 14 June 2017 at Grenfell Tower in West London was a national tragedy. The Home Office recognised that those directly affected by the fire, in some cases, needed support from family members and expedited visit visa applications and applied visa waivers to allow family to come to the UK in the immediate aftermath of the fire. Some family who were outside of the UK needed to come to the UK to arrange funerals for those who lost their lives, or to provide support to those directly affected by the fire. The Home Office acted swiftly to ensure that families were able to provide and receive support whilst they dealt with the effects of these terrible events. A small group of relatives, who were not able to meet the requirements for entry clearance, were granted short periods of leave to enter outside of the Immigration Rules.

On 11 October 2017, a Grenfell relatives' policy was announced to allow those granted less than 6 months' leave to enter outside of the Immigration Rules to extend their stay to a total period of 6 months from their date of entry to the UK. The policy has been extended to now also provide for relatives who have been called as a witness, or who have core participant (CP) status in the Public Inquiry, to extend their stay for up to a further 6 months.

The government is determined that we will do all we can to support the Public Inquiry. We will ensure that all those who are required to provide evidence in person, or who need to be in the UK to participate in the Inquiry are able to do so.

The period of 6 months' leave (which can be renewed) is to enable relatives to participate in the Public Inquiry. Whilst the Inquiry is likely to extend into 2020, it is unclear whether all relatives wish to remain or need to be in the UK between the evidence sessions.

It is important that policy relating to a specific event is applied in a consistent and equitable way to all. To make the process of extending stay as straight forward as possible for those who wish to remain on an ongoing basis, relatives can request an extension of stay in-person, without having to complete an application form and without having to pay fees and charges. These arrangements have been made on an exceptional basis due to the terrible and unique circumstances of the Fire.

The Grenfell relatives' policy is an exceptional and time-limited policy, which does not provide for all relatives of those directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. Where the Grenfell relatives' policy does not apply, relatives must make a valid application for leave. Leave sought by relatives will be considered in accordance with the relevant Immigration Rules or leave outside the Immigration Rules policies in force at the relevant time.

A relative who makes a valid application yet does not meet the requirements to be granted on another basis, but falls to be granted a period of leave outside the Immigration Rules on Grenfell grounds, will be granted a 6 month period of leave in-line with this policy.

Further information on other immigration routes can be found on the [visas and immigration pages of GOV.UK](#).

Policy intention

This guidance is intended to provide clarity to relatives of those who have been directly affected by the fire, on immigration leave.

Relatives can enter or remain in the UK, outside the Immigration Rules for up to 6 months at a time under or in-line with this policy where for example a relative:

- was granted 4 months' entry outside of the Immigration Rules under the Grenfell relatives' policy, to provide support to a survivor, and wish to top-up their stay to a period of 6 months from their date of arrival in the UK to provide ongoing support
- has CP status or who is called as a witness to the Inquiry

A relative of a person directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire, can be considered under or in-line with this policy irrespective of their current category of leave or immigration status.

Where a relative seeks to remain on a different basis, for example, as a partner of a British citizen, or settled person or person in the UK with refugee leave, they can [apply on the basis of family life and exceptional circumstances](#).

Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry relatives who are called as a witness or who have core participant status

According to the [Grenfell Inquiry website](#), a witness is a person who has evidence relating to the matters being considered, through for example records, videos, photographs or documentation. Witnesses can be called to give evidence to the Inquiry.

The allocation of CP status, by the Inquiry, is a mechanism to ensure that people can participate in the Inquiry. There are over 500 individuals and organisations who have CP status. Those wishing to be CPs were asked to submit their applications by 8 September 2017, although applications submitted after that will still be considered. The names of CPs are added to the [Inquiry website](#), unless the individual or organisation requests that their name be withheld. CPs are different to witnesses in the Inquiry, although a CP can also be a witness. Those with CP status receive evidence in advance of hearings and can make opening or closing statements at some hearings. They can suggest lines of questioning that the Inquiry should pursue and, with permission, can ask witnesses questions through their own legal representatives. CP status is given to those who apply, who are:

- survivors of the fire at Grenfell Tower
- residents of the Grenfell Tower at the time of the fire
- a relative of someone who died or was injured and as a result cannot participate in the Inquiry

CP status may also be granted by the Chair of the Public Inquiry, to those who:

- may have played a direct and significant role in whatever the Inquiry is looking at
- have a significant interest in an important part of the Inquiry

It is possible that a relative has CP status or may be called as a witness. For the purpose of a grant of leave under the Grenfell relatives' immigration policy, relatives must show, by way of documentary evidence, that they have CP status or have been called to give evidence as a witness.

Who can be considered under or in-line with the Grenfell relatives' policy

The specific Grenfell relatives' policy allows relatives of those directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire to enter or remain in the UK outside of the Immigration Rules for up to 6 months at a time.

The Grenfell relatives' policy applies to a relative of a person directly affected by the Grenfell fire, who was granted a period of entry outside of the Immigration Rules, of less than 6 months, following an application for entry clearance or a visa waiver where:

- they are required to stay for up to 6 months from their date of entry to the UK, to provide ongoing care to their relative in the UK who was directly affected by the fire
- there was a delay in their ability to make funeral arrangements for someone who died in the fire

The policy also allows for relatives who have been called as a witness, or have CP status in the Public Inquiry, to have their leave extended for periods of up to 6 months at a time, irrespective of their current category of leave or immigration status. Leave may be granted in-line with the policy where a person shows that they are a relative of a person directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire, and they fall to be granted because of their wish to participate in the Public Inquiry.

Categories excluded from the Grenfell relatives' policy

The following categories are excluded from a grant of leave under or in-line with the Grenfell relatives' policy, because of its specific application to the unique circumstances of the Grenfell fire and because it is in the public interest to apply this approach in order to maintain confidence in the immigration system:

- any Foreign National Offender (FNO), such as those subject to deportation proceedings or whose continued presence in the UK has been determined by the Home Office to be not conducive to the public good
- any person who, if they were to apply for asylum, would fall for exclusion under Article 1F of the Refugee Convention
- any person subject to Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIMs)
- any person currently subject to a Deportation Order (including those appealing a Deportation Order)
- any person for whom there are concerns about criminality, character or associations, including extremist behaviour
- any person who has failed security checks
- any person who has refused to supply their biometrics
- anyone in the UK with leave under or outside the Immigration Rules who is not a relative of a person in the UK who was directly affected by the Grenfell Tower fire
- relatives who are in the UK who were granted, or seek to be granted, leave for other reasons unconnected to the Grenfell fire

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Process to extend leave under the Grenfell relatives' policy

There are separate processes for relatives who are being considered under the Grenfell relatives' policy, and relatives who otherwise seek to remain under other immigration policies.

There is no application form or fee required for a person to be considered under the Grenfell relatives' policy. Home Office staff will invite individuals to complete a short proforma in order to provide the necessary details. Subject to the completion of the relevant security checks, the decision on whether a person qualifies for leave under this policy will be made as soon as possible by a dedicated team dealing with these cases.

The local authority, family key worker or liaison officer may be contacted for information required to assess whether the person falls within the scope of this policy.

An invitation to complete the Grenfell relatives' proforma, must be taken up in-person at a designated location.

Details of the designated location can be found by checking the [Grenfell Tower fire: support for people affected page](#). This location may be subject to change.

Individuals can also contact the **Home Office helpline on 0300 3032832** for further information.

Relatives who are outside the UK, who seek to enter because they have been called as a witness or have core participant (CP) status, can apply for entry clearance as a visitor. They are required to make a valid application and pay the relevant fees and charges. A person who is a national of a country or territory whose nationals require visas to visit the UK should apply for a visit visa at their nearest Visa Application Centre: <https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre>.

A person who is a national of a country or territory whose nationals do not require a visa to visit the UK for up to 6 months, may apply to enter on arrival at the UK border.

All applicants will need to meet the requirements of Appendix V to the Immigration Rules – the Rules for visitors (see Appendix 3, paragraphs 13 to 14): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor-rules>.

Relatives should clearly set out their reasons for coming to the UK in their application, including evidence of CP status or request for attendance to give evidence at the Inquiry as a witness. Visit guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visit-guidance>.

Relatives who are not eligible for leave under or in-line with the Grenfell relatives' policy must apply for leave to remain under existing immigration policies or leave the UK.

An application for leave to remain on the basis of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) (right to respect for family and private life) can be made using the [FLR\(FP\)](https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/family-routes) application form here: <https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/family-routes>. This application can be accompanied by [a fee waiver application \(Appendix 1\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-based-and-other-specified-applications-appendix-1-request-for-fee-waiver) which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-based-and-other-specified-applications-appendix-1-request-for-fee-waiver>, where they cannot pay the fee due to destitution.

Alternatively, an application on the basis of other ECHR grounds or outside of the Immigration Rules for compelling compassionate reasons, can be made on application form further leave to remain human rights (other) ([FLR\(HRO\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-extend-stay-in-the-uk-flrhro)) that can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-extend-stay-in-the-uk-flrhro>.

Conditions of stay

Relatives granted under or in-line with this policy will be granted leave outside of the Immigration Rules for a period of up to 6 months with a condition of no recourse to public funds, no work and no study.

Having a condition of no recourse to public funds means a relative is not able to claim most benefits, tax credits or housing assistance that are paid by the state. Further information can be found in the [public funds guidance](#).

Relatives granted leave under or in-line with this policy may however, carry out a maximum of 30 days study on a:

- recreational course (not English language training)
- short-course (which includes English language training) at an accredited institution

provided that the study is not at a state funded school or academy.

All relatives of those directly affected by the Grenfell fire are expected to comply with the conditions of their stay and leave the UK when that leave expires, or request an extension to stay in the UK before their leave expires. Those who remain in the UK without lawful immigration status may be considered as an overstayer. Requesting an extension of stay before their current leave expires prevents an individual from becoming an overstayer while they are awaiting a decision in-line with [section 3C of the Immigration Act 1971](#).

Relatives who hold leave under or in-line with this policy may travel in and out of the UK within the currency of that leave. A relative whose leave expires when they are outside the UK is required to apply for a relevant entry clearance visa to return and may otherwise return as a visitor.

Relatives must explain if they need recourse to public funds to prevent destitution each time they request an extension of stay. Relatives must provide information and evidence with their proforma or in support of their application. Relatives who hold leave, can request a change of conditions to prevent destitution. A request to change conditions of leave granted under or in-line with this policy, must be made in-person at the dedicated location.

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Consideration process

Given the circumstances, any application from relatives of a person directly affected by the Grenfell fire, will be prioritised and will be decided by dedicated specialist decision making teams.

Where a relative applies to enter the UK to give evidence to the Inquiry as a witness, or because they have core participant (CP) status, you will consider the visit guidance. Relatives may wish to refer to the visit guidance which can be found on GOV.UK here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visit-guidance>, before moving on to consider whether to grant a period of leave in-line with this policy.

Where a Grenfell relative enquires about an extension of stay, you will consider this Grenfell relatives' policy guidance.

You should consider all grounds raised that relate to Grenfell as part of the case-by-case consideration.

Where consideration is necessary on other grounds you must consider separate guidance relevant to the application that has been made, which may include guidance on [ECHR Article 3 medical](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/granting-discretionary-leave), discretionary leave (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/granting-discretionary-leave>) or Article 8 family and private life 5-year (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-8-appendix-fm-family-members>), or 10-year (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/appendix-fm-10b-family-life-as-a-partner-or-parent-and-private-life-10-year-routes>) partner, parent and private life guidance.

Where an applicant does not meet the requirements to be granted on another basis under these policies, you must go on to consider in accordance with the leave outside the Immigration Rules Policy, (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-1-section-14-leave-outside-the-immigration-rules>) if there are compelling compassionate grounds relating to the Grenfell fire, to warrant a grant of leave to remain outside of the Immigration Rules in-line with this policy. The Home Office will consider the exceptional or compassionate circumstances in any immigration case in which an individual has been affected by personal tragedy.

How we will consider if the Grenfell relatives' policy applies

Subject to the completion of a short proforma or application form, and provision of information and the relevant security checks, the decision on whether a person qualifies for leave under, or in-line with, the Grenfell relatives' policy will be made as soon as possible by dedicated decision-makers dealing with these cases.

The local authority, family key worker or liaison officer and other government departments, may be contacted for information required to assess whether the person falls within the scope of this policy.

Providing evidence

Relatives should provide information relating to the ongoing support being provided to family who are directly affected by the Grenfell fire. Relatives who have been called as a witness, or have CP status in the Public Inquiry, must provide documentary evidence in support of an extension of stay.

Staff can assist relatives by checking information against the [published list of those with CP status](#) on the [Grenfell Inquiry web site](#).

Relatives who hold a BRP, must provide it.

Staff considering whether to grant a period of leave up to 6 months from their date of entry to the UK, under or in-line with this policy, which raise grounds relating to the ongoing support for a survivor, will be looking for evidence that the person is required to provide necessary ongoing support to a relative. Their relative must have been a resident of Grenfell Tower on the date of the fire or living close to Grenfell Tower and was significantly affected by the fire because their place of residence was destroyed or made uninhabitable by the fire. Relatives must show:

- evidence that they are required to remain in the UK to provide necessary ongoing support for their family member or members who are in the UK
- reasons why they are required to remain in the UK to provide such support
- information / evidence about the type of support they are required to give to their relative
- letters of support from community leaders or recognised support groups in support of their application to remain in the UK

Noting the difficult circumstances in which survivors and others directly affected by the fire find themselves, you must be satisfied that a person is eligible for consideration under or in-line with the Grenfell relatives' policy and are required to remain in the UK to provide necessary ongoing support for a relative in the UK.

Destitution

Relatives who are destitute, or who are at risk of destitution, must provide evidence of their financial circumstances and accommodation so that the condition of no recourse to public funds and no work is disappplied or can be lifted in their case to avoid destitution.

The definition of destitution is: they do not have adequate accommodation or any means of obtaining it (whether or not their other essential living needs are met) they have adequate accommodation or the means of obtaining it but cannot meet their other essential living needs.

Relatives who are granted leave under or in-line with this policy may request a change in conditions to prevent destitution. Those who wish to request a change in conditions should speak to staff at the designated location. Details can be found by checking the [Grenfell Tower fire: support for people affected page](#). This location may be subject to change.

Individuals can also contact the Home Office helpline on 0300 3032832 for further information.

Decision-makers can refer to the [fee waiver guidance](#) for further information on assessing destitution.

Biometric enrolment

All people, including any dependants considered under these policies are required to enrol their biometrics and pay any relevant fees and charges.

The results of biometric checks will be used to determine whether the individual falls to be excluded from consideration under the Grenfell relatives' or other immigration policies. Biometric information will be used and retained in accordance to powers contained within the Immigration (Biometric Registration) Regulations 2008, as amended.

Applications on a specified form, must include a completed biometric immigration document section, in order for their application to be valid and complete.

Home Office staff will notify the individual of the location where biometrics can be provided and whether the enrolment will attract a fee. This is usually the local post office.

No charge will be made for relatives who complete a proforma under the Grenfell relatives' policy.

Granting leave to remain

The granting of leave to remain under or in-line with the Grenfell relatives' policy is conditional on the relevant security, identity, biometric and eligibility requirements being met.

Length of leave and conditions

Leave to remain under or in-line with the Grenfell relatives' policy will be for a period of up to 6 months either from the relative's date of entry to the UK, or from the date of decision.

In all cases, leave granted under or in-line with this Grenfell Relatives' policy, will normally be granted without recourse to public funds and with a prohibition on work and study in the UK for the duration of the leave.

Leave will be conferred on a biometric identity document.

Otherwise leave will be granted according to the relevant immigration routes' guidance and with relevant conditions.

Refusing leave

All cases will be considered on their individual merits, under and in-line with the relevant policy. Where an individual fails to meet the requirements for a grant of leave, you must refer the decision to a senior decision-maker. The relatives must be advised of the reasons for refusal.

Appeal rights and administrative review

Refusal to grant leave under the Grenfell relatives' policy is not an appealable decision and cannot be considered for an administrative review. Other refusals may attract a relevant appeal right, depending on the type of application made.

Family reunion

A person granted leave under the Grenfell relatives' policy may not sponsor a person to enter the UK.

Removal action

Immigration Enforcement will not pursue removal action where the relative has an outstanding consideration for leave to remain under or in-line with the Grenfell relatives' policy, or where their valid application for leave has yet to be finally determined. Relatives who are not granted leave to remain will be expected to leave the UK.

False claims

Any person who makes a false claim for leave under or in-line with the Grenfell relatives' or any other immigration policy must be referred to Immigration Enforcement to consider next steps in-line with existing policies and procedures for those trying to use deception to obtain leave. Making a false claim in order to obtain leave by deception is a criminal offence and may lead to prosecution.

Recording statistics/CID

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