

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
TO REUNIFY WITH YOUR
FAMILY



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This infosheet contains general information about **rights to family reunification through the “Dublin III Regulation” for asylum applicants in Greece as of July 2021.**

It is not exhaustive, subject to changes and **we recommend that you consult a lawyer licensed to practice law in Greece or NGO providing legal support about your specific case in any event.**

If you have close family members in one of the following "Dublin" countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and you wish to reunify with them, you can apply for a process called '**family reunification**' under the "Dublin regulation".

This process might allow you to join your family elsewhere under certain criteria described below.

If you want to join your family in the United Kingdom, you can find information and legal support on the website of Refugee Legal Support under this link:

<https://www.refugeelegalsupport.org/uk-family-reunion>.

**WHO CAN APPLY FOR FAMILY
REUNIFICATION?**

- You must be registered as an **asylum seeker in Greece** and have a **close family member** in another “Dublin country” (see list above).
- Your close family member should normally be asylum seeker or have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection in that country.
- Close family members are:
 - Your **husband** or **wife**
 - Your **partner** (even if you are not married, if you can prove that you have a stable relationship)
 - Your **children if they are not married and under 18 years old**
 - If you are an unaccompanied minor (under 18 years old): **your parent(s), brother, sister, aunt, uncle or grandparent.**

- If you are an adult and depend on someone's care or someone **depends on your care** (for example, you or they need help with daily tasks such as moving around, eating, using the bathroom), you may also be able to ask to be reunited with your unmarried partner, mother, father, child, brother or sister. However, you need to be able to show a relationship of dependency, or other humanitarian reasons (for example if you have severe medical or psychological conditions and/or you are at risk of harm because your living conditions in Greece are not adequate, etc.).
- **Not everyone is able to make this type of application because it has additional strict requirements and documentation of your condition might be requested.** In these situations it is recommended to consult a lawyer who can advise you and explain to you the specific requirements and if you meet the criteria for applying.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- Explain to the Greek authorities that you have family members in another country in Europe with whom you wish to reunify **during your registration as an asylum seeker in Greece, or at the latest during your asylum interview.**
- Your request for family reunification **must be submitted within 3 months of your asylum registration. Note: for family reunification to Germany your request must be submitted within 3 months of your arrival in Greece.**
- **The deadlines applicable are very strict,** so make sure you mention clearly **at the earliest possible** that you wish to be reunified with a family member.

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- Provide the Greek Asylum Service with the following documents:
 - **signed consent forms**, showing that you and your family member both agree to be reunited in the other country;

 - **your family member's accurate contact details**;

 - **copies of your family member(s)' documents** confirming their status in the other country;

 - **evidence of your relationship**, including:

- family book, marriage certificate, birth certificate or other papers from your country of origin;
- family photos, letters, witness statements describing your relationship, screenshots of messages and call logs.

REMEMBER TO:

- **Ask for the support of a Greek lawyer or an organisation providing legal support** to follow your case, ensure that the deadlines are respected, and communicate on your behalf with the responsible Greek authorities.
- Ideally **your family member(s) in the other country should also contact a lawyer or legal organisation** there to ensure that the authorities of both countries are aware of your request and process it timely.

- **Keep all of the documents** provided to you by the Greek Asylum Service relating to your application for family reunification.
- **Ask the Greek Asylum Service for regular updates** about the status of your request for family reunification. You can do this by emailing: **as.dpt.ndu@migration.gov.gr** with your case number, file number and name.
- **Inform the authorities about any changes at the earliest possible opportunity** : if you or your family member(s) change phone number, address, or other contact details.

**WHEN WILL I BE REUNIFIED
WITH MY FAMILY?**

It is common for family reunification to **take approximately one year**, from submission of the request until the effective transfer to the other country.

- **If your family reunification request is accepted** by the other country, Greece has 6 months from that moment to arrange your transfer there. Greece is responsible for arranging and paying for your flights. You/your family cannot pay for these flights yourself to speed up the transfer.
- **If your family reunification request is rejected** by the other country, you can ask for a re-examination within 3 weeks. Ask for a copy of the refusal letter and seek the urgent assistance of a lawyer or an organisation providing legal support.

There are other routes to family reunification via the embassies or other national procedures. These have similar criteria regarding the required close family connection.

For more information about these routes, you should seek the advice of a lawyer or of an organisation providing legal support.

Notes



**LEGAL
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LESVOS**

WhatsApp: +30 694 961 8883

Landline: +30 225 1040 665

Email: info@legalcentrelesvos.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LesvosLegal

Address: Sapfous 2, Mytilène 81100

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday - 10h - 14h