

FAMILY REUNIFICATION – UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

When can I apply for family reunification?

When you have a valid residence permit;
or
When you have refugee status.

Who can join in family reunification?

For family members who are outsiders of Portugal, or already inside the country.

Who are the family members that I can regroup?

Parents (as long as you are under 18);
Responsible adult or legal guardian or any other family member, if they do not have parents or cannot be located.

Where and how to submit the application?

Scheduling through SEF's call center; to, on the scheduled date, deliver to the SEF Directorate or regional delegation of your residence area, the following documents:

Minor
Identification Documents (Residence Permit; Refugee Status);
Birth certificate

Parents
- Copy of all passport pages
- Criminal record updated
(both documents need to be authenticated at the Portuguese consular entity in the country where they are located);

The documents need to be within the expiry date and have to be translated. The translation must be certified.

SEF will analyze the process and issue a decision.

What happens after submitting the application?

If documents are missing from the process, SEF responds with a letter requesting their delivery within a defined period.

How long does it take to be accepted?

After receiving all documents, SEF will issue a decision within a maximum period of six months. If you do not respond within that period, the request is considered accepted.

Who issues the order acceptance decision?

SEF's national director

For what reasons can it be refused?

When the criteria are not met;

When the family member is prevented from entering Portugal;

When the presence of the family member in national territory constitutes a threat to public order, public security or public health.

It cannot be refused for not having the document that proves the family relationship.

The decision is always sent with justification and the applicant can refute.

Do I have to pay?

Only when the family member arrives in Portugal, to issue the residence card.

Fees may be waived or reduced upon request.

What happens if the order is accepted?

The family members will have to travel to the Embassy or Consulate at the place where they live and request a residence visa;

Upon your arrival in Portugal, please schedule at SEF to request the issue of the residence permit.

WARNING:

This process is very complex and requires formal responses to SEF requests to be written.

Always rely on the support of the Casa de Acolhimento team or the team that accompanies you afterwards.

