

Asylum Support Partnership

help and advice



March 2010

English

Applying for cash only support: moving in with family or a friend

If you are currently receiving both accommodation and cash support from the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and you wish to leave accommodation and live with family or a friend, you must tell the UKBA before moving. If you are staying in initial accommodation provided by the UKBA you should also tell your accommodation provider. Failing to do so may result in the UKBA stopping the cash support you receive.

This leaflet identifies:

- How moving may affect the financial support you receive from the UKBA
- What you should consider before moving
- How to request permission from the UKBA to live with a family member or a friend
- What documents are required to support your request and
- How we can help you

Could moving in with a friend or family affect the cash support I receive from the UKBA?

Please note that the UKBA will not pay towards your family or friend's accommodation or household bills. It is therefore important that your friend or family member does not expect you to pay rent or contribute money towards their bills.

Can I move in with my friend or family member if they live in another part of the UK?

Yes, you can request to move with a friend or family member who lives in another area. However, if you want to live with someone in a different city or another part of the UK, your immigration case will need to be transferred and you will need to report in a different region.

If you live in a part of the UK that requires that you obtain permission from UKBA to move, you should not move before receiving written permission from them. Moving without permission could have an effect on your asylum claim.

If you are not sure whether or not you require written permission from UKBA before moving, seek advice from your nearest refugee agency.

Other translated leaflets are available at <http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk>

Asylum Support Partnership is a partnership project hosted by the British Refugee Council
British Refugee Council, (commonly called the Refugee Council) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, [No 2727514] and a registered charity, [No 1014576].

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What else do I need to consider before moving?

- **Section 55 (a law which gives the UKBA the power to refuse to provide cash support)**

If you applied for asylum more than three days (72 hours) after arriving in the UK and wish to apply for cash support only, it is likely that you will have to attend a Section 55 interview with the UKBA.

At this interview, UKBA will consider the following:

- Whether you applied for asylum as soon as you reasonably could
- Whether they believe the account given by you about your arrival
- Whether you will suffer inhuman or degrading treatment if the UKBA will refuse to provide support.

If the UKBA decides that you did not make your claim for asylum within a reasonable timeframe ('as soon as reasonably practicable'), they may refuse to provide you with any cash support. You cannot appeal this decision, however you can ask for it to be reconsidered.

- **Accessing legal advice**

If you move to another part of the UK, your current legal representative may tell you that they cannot continue to represent you.

Scotland has a different legal system from the rest of the UK. If your case is under Judicial Review or under appeal at the Court of Session in Scotland, we strongly advise that you discuss your options with your legal representative before making a request to move to another part of the UK.

- **Travel expenses**

If you decide to move, the UKBA will not contribute to your travel expenses and must meet the cost of travel yourself.

What do I need to do if I'm required to obtain permission from the UKBA before moving?

You must make a written request to UKBA which has been signed by you. You must also provide written evidence from your friend or family member confirming they will allow you to live with them.

If your friend or family member owns their accommodation they must provide a letter stating that they:

- Own the accommodation and are willing to allow you to live with them
- Do not expect you to contribute towards rent or bills for gas, electricity and water (known as utilities), and
- Can only provide you with accommodation and are not able to provide you with any additional financial support.

They must also provide:

- A recent utility (gas, electricity, water) bill indicating their name at a matching address; and
- Proof that they own their home, for example mortgage statement.

If your friend or family member rents their accommodation, they must provide:

- Signed letter from their landlord giving permission for you to live with your friend in the specified accommodation
- Signed letter from your friend confirming that they can accommodate you are not expecting you to contribute financially towards rent or utility bills (gas, electricity, water) and
- Recent utility bill indicating their name at the matching address.

How can we help?

Refugee agencies can assist you with making a written request to UKBA asking for permission to move in with family or a friend. Your current UKBA accommodation provider should be able to tell you where your local refugee agency is, or you can use the website address listed at the bottom of next page.

If you need to inform UKBA of your new contact details or of any change in circumstances, you can contact your nearest refugee agency.

What happens next?

If you are applying for permission to move with family or a friend it can take a number of weeks for the UKBA to process your request. The UKBA will write to you directly to inform you of their decision.

If you have not received any correspondence from the UKBA after four weeks, please speak to one of the refugee agencies.

If your request to move is approved, UKBA will write to you directly and will ask you to inform them of the exact date when you plan to move. They will then send all the correspondence to your new address.

If you move and then experience any problems with your support, you should contact the refugee agency nearest to your new address, not the refugee agency in your old area.

Asylum Support Partnership consists of:

North of England Refugee Service, charity number: 1091200 www.refugee.org.uk
Refugee Action, charity number: 283660 www.refugee-action.org.uk
Refugee Council, charity number: 1014576 www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
Scottish Refugee Council, charity number: SC008639 www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk
Welsh Refugee Council, charity number: 1102449 www.welshrefugeecouncil.org