



You have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.

What do you have to do ?

1. The residence

➤ ***If you are recognized refugee*** : You have to go to the prefecture with the decision sent by the OFPRA or CNDA stating that you have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.

The prefecture will deliver you, within 8 days, a temporary authorization valid three months (a *récépissé*), with the mention “status of refugee”, which allows you to work. The prefecture can ask you a house address, but if you don’t have any, your certificate of domiciliation is valid.

When your *récépissé* expires, the prefecture will deliver another one, which will be valid 3 or 6 months. You will still have the right to work.

To (get) your resident permit (10 years) : you have to give to the prefecture : the birth certificate established by the Ofpra, the medical certificate from OFII and a proof of address (if you have no other address, they should accept certificate of domicile made by an organisation)

➤ ***If you have been granted the subsidiary protection***: The prefecture will deliver, within 8 days, a temporary authorization valid six months (a *récépissé*), which allows you to work.

At the end of this 6-month period, if your definitive card is not ready, the prefecture will deliver another *recepissé* that will allow you to work too.

To get your temporary stay card “family and private life” (vie privée et familiale), which can be renewed every year: you have to give your civil status documents, the medical certificate from OFII and a proof of address (which can be a certificate of domicile of an organisation).

2. Civil Status Documents

OFPRA sends you a letter with a form to fill very carefully, (fiche d’état civil) : Family name, given name, date and place of birth, parent’s name, husband or wife’s name, information about your marriage even if it is a traditional one, and children’s name.

You must join your birth certificate if you have one, or, otherwise write a letter to explain why it is impossible for you to get one.

Within a month, OFPRA will send you by mail, a document that will serve as a birth certificate and a certificate of marriage if you are married.

3. OFII Office Français de l’immigration et de l’insertion

As soon as you receive your birth certificate established by OFPRA, you have to show it at the prefecture.

OFII will ask you to attend a medical examination, a day of formation about France, a french language test and to sign the CAI contract (contrat d’accueil et d’intégration, CAI – “arrival and integration” contract).

Going to this appointment at OFII’s will allow you to obtain your resident permit or your temporary stay card.

It is an obligation to sign the reception and integration contract (CAI), to take part to the civic day and to follow the French lessons.

4. Refugee's family

➤ ***Family reunification, if the husband or wife and the children under 18 stayed in the home country***

As soon as you get your *récépissé* with the mention "refugee" on it, you can apply for family reunification. Refugees do not have to prove that they have special funds or lodging.

You must send to your family all the documents provided by the Ministry so that they can go to the Consulate with copy of these documents.

- letter from OFPRA/CNDA granting you refugee status or subsidiary protection
- a both side copy of your resident permit or your *récépissé* delivered by the prefecture
- Details about the composition of your family, with the exact address of your family out of France.
- And, if you already have it: your birth certificate provided by OFPRA.

➤ ***Principle of family unit***

The principle of family unit allows to grant the refugee status to your wife or husband (if she or he has your nationality and if you were already married when you applied for asylum) and to your children under 18, if they are registered with OFPRA.

The person will have to go to the prefecture to apply for asylum and will state in the file that their husband or wife or relative is a refugee.

The husband or wife and the children older than 16 become refugee and obtain a resident permit.

➤ ***The 10 year resident permit is a right for the member of the family***

Even if they are not granted refugee status by virtue of the family unit principle, your husband or wife can benefitate of a *carte de séjour* of 10 years. You have to have been married before the granting of refugee status. Children must be under 19 years old.

➤ ***The temporary card is delivered to the husband/wife of the foreigner***

who obtained the subsidiary protection, if the marriage happened before the granting of refugee status and to children before their 19 birthday.

The resident permit must be asked at the prefecture, and it is possible to apply for asylum at the same time.

5. Social rights

➤ ***Healthcare***

As a refugee or under subsidiary protection, you are entitled to social insurance.

You can obtain *Cmu – complémentaire* (that gives you access to free medical attention) provided that you are on low income.

➤ ***RSA (Revenu de Solidarité Active)***

If you are a refugee, over 25 years old and you have no or very low income, you can be entitled to RSA

If you are under 25 years old but pregnant or taking care of a child, you can also benefitate from the RSA.

To apply for RSA, you have to go to the city council of the place where you live or to meet a social worker. The documents you need to show :

- your *récépissé* with the mention "refugee" on it
- a certificate of domiciliation
- your Assedic notification

The amount of the RSA is about 524,68 euros per month for a single adult, 787,02 euros for a couple.

➤ ***Temporary allowance (ATA)***

If you are under 25 and cannot apply for RSA, you can ask this allowance to the Pole Emploi. It is about 345e per month, limited to twelve months.

You have to go and apply for it at the Pôle Emploi office.

Juin 2016

➤ ***Familial benefits (CAF)***

Refugees and persons under subsidiary protection can be entitled to family benefits if they fit the criteria (expecting a child, having a child aged less than 3 years old, having two children or more, raising a child alone,...). Informations can be given by a social worker.

➤ ***Transportation solidarity card***

With your attestation of complementary CMU (social insurance), you can get 50% discount on your train and metro tickets for Paris and the suburb, and 75% on the orange card. When you have RSA, it is completely free. Call the free number 0800-948-999 to get the file to fill.

6. Employment

If you have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection, you have the right to work and this right is mentioned on your *récépissé*.

➤ ***Pôle Emploi***

You can be registered with the Pôle emploi to get help to look for a job or a training.

➤ ***Local mission for people under 26***

If you are under 26, you can get registered with the Pôle Emploi and with the local mission (Mission locale), which will provide you help and support about professional issues.

Advice: it can be faster to find a job if you get registered with temporary work agencies.

7. Housing

➤ ***Ask for temporary stay in a CPH (temporary center)***

You have to fill the file with a social worker and send it to the OFII

➤ ***Apply for social housing at your city council***

It is called HLM (social housing).

➤ ***Apply for SIAO (temporary housing) with the help of a social worker***

8. Driving licence

Once you have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection, you must ask for the exchange of your foreign driving license within one year.

You have to go to the prefecture with your driving license, and a translation of this license and your resident permit.

9. Travel documents

If you want to travel abroad after you obtained your resident permit or your temporary card, you have to go to the prefecture and fill a form asking for a travel document.

Warning : you can't go to **your** country except in exceptional circumstances (death of a member of your family, disease...) otherwise you can lose your refugee status.

If you have to go to your country because of one of these events, you have to ask the prefecture for an authorisation. The prefecture will deliver you a "laissez passer" instead of your travel document.

10. Certificate of study level for degrees obtained abroad

If you have been graduated abroad, your degrees can be recognized. It is free for refugees and subsidiary protection.

Address to send your file to :

CIEP, ENIC-NARIC 1 avenue Léon Journault 92318 Sèvres Cedex

The documents you will have to send :

- a copy of your original degree,
- a copy of the translation of your degree (made by a sworn translator) except if they are in English or Arabic
- a copy of your resident permit,
- a proof of address
- a letter explaining why you want your degree to be recognized, how long you've been studying and the details of your studies,
- a half size envelop, stamped, with your name and address on it.

11. Loss of refugee status

The refugee status is not granted *ad vitam aeternam* It can be removed, in the two following cases :

- voluntary loss of the status : you go back to live in your country, you obtain another nationality, you managed to be under the protection of your country

-The 1C5 clause (cessation clause) of the Geneva Convention provides that the refugee status can be removed when the circumstances in connection with which he was recognised a refugee have ceased to exist.

The Geneva Convention provides that the refugee can keep the status if he invokes compelling reasons arising out of previous persecution.

If the refugee status is lost or removed, it might not affect your right of stay in France.

The subsidiary protection is examined every year and it is removed if the circumstances in connection with which he was granted subsidiary protection have ceased to exist. (and the one year resident permit is removed)