

# FAQ on 2017 Amendment to Age of Dependent Children

## What is the background of the 2017 amendment?

From June 28, 2002, to July 31, 2014, the eligibility age of a dependent child for refugee sponsorship applications, and other immigration programs, was under 22 years of age.

On August 1, 2014, the age limit for dependent children was reduced from under 22 years of age to under 19 years of age.

**On May 03, 2017, it was announced that the maximum age at which a child may be considered a dependent would increase from under 19 years of age to under 22 years of age.**

The new amendment applies to all refugee sponsorship applications, as well as other immigration programs (such as family class sponsorship).

**IMPORTANT:** This amendment will come into effect on **October 24, 2017**.

## What does the 2017 amendment change?

The 2017 amendment increases the maximum age at which a child may be considered a dependent from under 19 years of age to under 22 years of age.

## When does the amendment come into effect?

The amendment **comes into effect on October 24, 2017** and will **only apply to a new application/s submitted on or after this date**.

## Will the age of dependency still be locked in at the time of the application's submission once the new amendment comes into effect on October 24, 2017?

The **age of dependency** will still be locked in at the time of submission **for a new application/s submitted on or after October 24, 2017**.

Example: If a child is under the age of 22 at the time an application is submitted, and turns 22 while the application is being processed, he/she will still be considered a dependent child and will not need to submit a separate application package after he/she turns 22.

## We are submitting a refugee sponsorship application before October 24, 2017. Can we include a child that is over the age of 19 as a dependent of the Principal Applicant?

**Can children under the age of 22 be included as a dependent of the Principal Applicant?**

**YES:** If application is submitted on or after October 24, 2017.

**NO:** If application is submitted between August 1, 2014 and October 23, 2017.

Sponsors submitting an application/s **before October 24, 2017**, must still submit a **separate application/s package/s for all children that are over the age of 19**.

Sponsors submitting an application/s **on or after October 24, 2017**, will be able to include children up to 22 years of age as dependents of the Principal Applicant.

## Will applications submitted between August 1, 2014, and October 24, 2017, benefit from the amendment?

The amendment **will not** apply retroactively. A transitional provision clarifies that the amendment does not apply to sponsorship applications submitted between the dates of July 31, 2014 and October 24, 2017.

For sponsors who submitted a sponsorship application/s between August 1, 2014 and October 23, 2017, the current definition of dependent child (under 19 years of age) will continue to apply.

We submitted an application between August 1, 2014, and October 23, 2017, and had to submit a separate application/s packages for children that were over the age of 19. Our application is still being processed. Can we change or update our application to include children between 19 and 22 years of age as dependents when the amendment comes into effect on October 24, 2017?

Sponsors who submitted an application/s between August 1, 2014 and October 23, 2017, **will not** be able to change or update their application to include children between the ages of 19 and 22 years of age as dependents of the Principal Applicant when the amendment comes into effect on October 24, 2017.

## What about children who are over the age of 22 but have a physical and/or mental condition?

Children who are 22 years of age or older, and who are unable to support themselves due to a physical and/or mental condition, will continue to be eligible as dependent children when the amendment comes into effect on October 24, 2017.

## Where can I find more information on the amendment?

Please visit the links below for further information on the amendment:

[https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2017/05/changes\\_to\\_regulationswillseeageincreasedfordependentchild.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2017/05/changes_to_regulationswillseeageincreasedfordependentchild.html)

<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2017/2017-05-03/html/sor-dors60-eng.php>

[https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2017/05/canada\\_to\\_benefiteconomicallyandsociallybyincreasingtheageofdepe.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2017/05/canada_to_benefiteconomicallyandsociallybyincreasingtheageofdepe.html)

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