

RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program

Criminal Record Check and Refugee Sponsorship

The New Requirement

As of May 1, 2018, new forms and guides have come into effect for the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program. One of the new requirements for Groups of Five (G5) and Community Sponsors (CS) is the Criminal Record Check (non-vulnerable sector check).

Groups of Five (G5)

In a G5 sponsorship, each member of the sponsoring group must submit a copy of a criminal record check (non-vulnerable sector check) issued within 6 months prior to the application's submission to ROC-O.

If a group member has a previous criminal conviction, they should include applicable police and court documents which show the outcome of the charges.

To determine if the member will be able to participate in the G5 sponsorship, ROC-O will look at convictions inside of Canada for the offence of murder or an offence set out in Schedule I or II of the [Corrections and Conditional Release Act](#). If the group member was convicted outside of Canada, of an offence that, if committed in Canada, would constitute one of the offences referred to above, then they will not be able to participate in the sponsorship.

Community Sponsors (CS)

For CS refugee sponsorship, the Signing Authority for the CS needs to submit a criminal record check. If a co-sponsor organization is involved in the sponsorship, then the organizational co-sponsor Signing Authority must submit a criminal record check. In a CS refugee sponsorship, where an individual co-sponsor is involved, the individual co-sponsor must submit a copy of a criminal record check (non-vulnerable sector check).

These criminal record checks should have been issued within 6 months prior to the submission of the application to ROC-O.

If the signing authority for the CS or individual co-sponsors involved in the sponsorship have a prior criminal conviction, they should include all applicable police and court documents which show the nature of the charges.

Similar to G5, ROC-O will look at convictions inside of Canada of the offence of murder or an offence set out in Schedule I or II of the

CLOSING

September 17, 2018

The Refugee Hub fund to facilitate the sponsorship of up to 1,000 refugees through the BVOR Program is closing on **September 17, 2018**.

Refugees sponsored with the support of this fund will arrive in Canada before December 31, 2018.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Please contact bvorfund@refugeehub.ca to sponsor a BVOR refugee before September 17, 2018.

RSTP Website Update

The Updated Procedures Regarding the Residency Requirements for PSRS & the new FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support are now available on RSTP's website:

1. [Updated Procedures Regarding Residency Requirements for Private Sponsorship](#)
2. [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support](#)

[Corrections and Conditional Release Act](#) and convicted outside of Canada, of an offence that, if committed in Canada, would constitute one of the offences referred to above

Criminal Record Check (Non-Vulnerable Sector Check)

A criminal record check will determine if a person has been charged or convicted of a crime in Canada. There are three types of criminal background checks: a **criminal record check**, a **police information check** and a **vulnerable sector check**.

For the purpose of refugee sponsorship, members of a G5 sponsoring group or the signing Authority of the CS group needs only the **criminal record check**. This allows IRCC to know if those who are sponsoring refugees have a criminal history that can put the resettled refugees in danger.

There are [two ways](#) to check if you have a criminal history:

1. **Name-based criminal record checks**
 - Name-based criminal record checks consist of a check of the National Repository of Criminal Records based on a person's name and date of birth. They may also include searches of other national and local databases.
2. **Certified criminal record checks**
 - A fingerprint search of the National Repository of Criminal Records is conducted by RCMP's Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services (CCRTIS).

ROC-O accepts both the name-based check and the fingerprint check.

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs)

Sponsorship agreement holders (SAHs) are **not required to submit** a criminal record check with their undertaking. This is because SAHs do their own screening to determine whether they will work with individual co-sponsors (families who contact SAHs to sponsor their relatives who are in refugee situations) or co-sponsoring organizations.

How to get a criminal record check

Criminal record checks are offered by the local police department or the RCMP, depending on the jurisdiction. Contact your local police for information about criminal record checks. If the RCMP is your local police, use the [RCMP locator](#) to find an RCMP detachment near you.

Multiple undertakings

When sponsors are part of more than one sponsorship undertaking, they may submit a copy of their criminal record check with each application. These criminal record checks must valid and issued within 6 months prior to the submission of the application to ROC-O.

RELATED INQUIRY

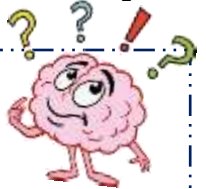
You Asked

One of our group members has a criminal record check that was taken a year ago for work and is valid for 10 years. We are wondering if this clearance is acceptable for G5 sponsorship.

Our Answer

Although the criminal record check is valid, it needs to have been issued within 6 months of the application being submitted to ROC-O. Hence, it will not be accepted by ROC-O.

The date of issue is important because there is no guarantee that the information will still be accurate after a year. For this reason, sponsors who do not have a criminal check issued within 6 months, are asked to repeat the process for new sponsorships.





A solidarity rally to welcome Syrian refugees to Canada, Toronto Ontario. Photo: [Aarindambanerjee/2015](#)

Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)

Refugees sponsored under the JAS program have special or enhanced needs that will likely result in a longer or more difficult period of integration in Canada due to:

- Trauma from violence or torture;
- Medical disabilities;
- Effects of systemic discrimination; or,
- Large family units (such as a single parent with several children).

Under the JAS program, the government and a private sponsor support refugees for up to 24 months, depending on the need of the resettled refugee. In a few cases, the private sponsor may support refugees for up to 36 months. These refugees get income support from the Government of Canada and are matched with a private sponsorship group to get help in adjusting to life in Canada by giving them settlement help and emotional support.

Some refugees are identified overseas for the JAS program due to special needs. Others are converted into JAS cases after they arrive in Canada if it becomes clear that they need more support.

There are 56 In-Canada JAS Refugee Profiles waiting to be sponsored!

Including

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1490-08-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Currently lives in Winnipeg, MB

Linked Application: 1430-07-18, 1431-07-18, 1489-08-18, 1491-08-18, 1492-08-18

IRCC Local Office: Winnipeg, MB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: One

Family composition: This 15 year old young man recently resettled in Canada with his four siblings. Their mother is missing. After arriving in Canada, his eldest sister (1431-07-18) became his primary care giver.

Special needs: As survivors of Daesh the family members have experienced violence and trauma.

Support needed: A sponsor could help the family with access to resources and support. Expanding the family’s social network would result in more successful integration in Canada.



To all SAHs

RSTP would love to help you promote the BVOR programs to your Constituent Groups. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us if there is anything we can do.

bvor@rstp.ca;

1.877.290.1701 x2403.

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1431-07-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Currently lives in Winnipeg, MB

Linked Applications: 1430-07-18, 1489-08-18, 1490-08-18, 1491-08-18, 1492-08-18

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: Two

Family composition: This 21-year-old single mother with a four-year-old son has been caring for her four siblings, ages nine to 15, since recently arriving in Canada.

Special needs: She is a survivor of Daesh and is considered a woman at risk. She has minimal education and has language barriers. She and her son have experienced violence and trauma.

Support needed: A sponsor could provide the family with access to resources and support. Expanding the family's social network would lead to more successful integration during their settlement in Canada.

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1454-08-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: London, ON

Linked Application: 1450-08-18 1451-08-18 1452-08-18, 1453-08-18, and 1455-08-18

IRCC Local Office: London, ON

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: One

Family composition: This young man came to Canada with his oldest brother, his sister-in-law (In-Canada JAS 1450-08-18), and four siblings (In-Canada JAS 1451-08-18, In-Canada JAS 1452-08-18, In-Canada JAS 1453-08-18, and In-Canada JAS 1455-08-18).

Special needs: He suffers from trauma as a survivor of Daesh. Appropriate referrals have been made for him and other members of the family. His oldest brother and his brother's wife now care for him and his siblings. This new guardianship situation is difficult for all.

Support needed: The applicant, his oldest brother, his sister-in-law and his siblings would benefit from continuous support to help to recover from emotional and psychological trauma, to overcome their language barriers and to smoothly integrate into life in Canada.



Workshop with IRCC On Group of Five & Community Sponsor Applications

RSTP and IRCC are hosting workshops in **September 2018** in **Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver** and **Saskatoon** for individuals interested in submitting applications under the PSR program as a Group of Five or a Community Sponsor, and sponsoring refugees through the Blended Visa Office Referred (**BVOR**) program.

Attendees will learn about:

- How to complete the new application forms released on May 01, 2018;
- The new requirements for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors that came into effect on May 01, 2018;
- How IRCC processes PSR applications submitted by Groups of Five and Community Sponsors;
- IRCC's post-arrival financial and settlement support standards for PSR applications;
- IRCC's monitoring and assurance framework for PSR applications; and,
- How Groups of Five and Community Sponsors can sponsor refugees identified for resettlement by IRCC and UNHCR through the BVOR program.

Space is limited and all attendees are required to register for the workshops using the following links:

- **Winnipeg (September 10, 2018):**
<https://rstpirccwinnipeg.eventbrite.ca>
- **Edmonton (September 12, 2018):**
<https://rstpirccedmonton.eventbrite.ca>
- **Calgary (September 14, 2018):**
<https://rstpircccalgary.eventbrite.ca>
- **Vancouver (September 17, 2018):**
<https://rstpirccvancouver.eventbrite.ca>
- **Saskatoon (September 19, 2018):**
<https://rstpirccsaskatoon.eventbrite.ca>

For more information on these JAS Refugee Profiles and to learn about the JAS program, contact our Refugee Resettlement Project Worker at paznavehzadeh@rstp.ca or visit: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/special-initiatives/joint-assistance-sponsorships/>

Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

Workshops

Information Session on Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR)

Date: Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Time: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT

Where: Catholic Crosscultural Services, 3660 Hurontario Street, 7th Floor, Mississauga, ON L5B 3C4

Description: This is a monthly information session that provides an overview of Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) in Canada, it will provide general information on the following topics: Who can be sponsored to come to Canada? Who can sponsor? PSR process; and PSR obligations and rights of sponsored refugees. Individual cases will not be discussed during the session but you are most welcome to connect to have your application discussed in a one-on-one session afterwards.

Register by clicking:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-sponsorship-of-refugees-psr-information-session-tickets-48382119221>



Info-session for Francophones in Ottawa, Ontario

Webinars

The PSR Program: Preparing for Month 13

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

Description: Topics covered:

- When should sponsors start preparing for Month 13;
- What to consider when preparing for Month 13;
- Services available for sponsored newcomers in Month 13;
- Evaluating the sponsorship; and
- The post-sponsorship relationship.

Register by clicking:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8562871605232592129>

Preparing for Visa Office interviews

Date: Friday, September 21, 2018

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EDT

Description: The interview at the Canadian Visa Offices (VO) abroad is a stepping stone towards permanent residence status for sponsored refugees, and bringing them to safety in Canada. This webinar will provide guidance on how to prepare refugees for this interview. We will address:

- The rights of refugees during the interview;
- What to expect during the interview;
- Basic principles to stick to; and
- Possible reasons for rejection.

Register by clicking:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/5941189481039215107>

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/>

