

RSTP Bulletin

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

Accompanying vs Non Accompanying Family Members

Which family members can be sponsored on the same application as the Principal Applicant (PA)?

When applying to sponsor refugees under the PSR program, one person must be designated as the Principal Applicant (PA) on the application.

When you are applying to sponsor one refugee, that person is the PA by default (note: the age to qualify as a PA is 18 and over). When you are sponsoring a family, one family member must be designated as the PA. This is often the head of the family unit, but should ideally be the person with the strongest refugee story.

The PA can only list family members must meet the definition of a family used by the Canadian immigration system.

In the Canadian immigration system, a “family” is defined as: the PA; the PA’s spouse or common-law partner; any of the PA’s dependent children or any of the PA’s spouse’s or common-law partner’s dependent children; a dependent child of the PA’s dependent child; and, a dependent child of the PA’s spouse’s or common-law partner’s dependent child.

In the Canadian immigration system, a “dependent child” is defined as any children under the age of 22. A child under the age of 22 is not considered to be a dependent child if they are married. A child 22 or older is also not considered to be a dependent child.

Anyone that meets the definition of a “family” used by the Canadian immigration system can be sponsored on the same application as the PA. Anyone that does not meet this definition (i.e. children that are 22 or older; children under 22 that are married; uncles/aunts; siblings; grandparents; cousins; nephews/nieces etc.) cannot be sponsored on the same application as the PA and require a completely separate application package.

Sponsoring groups must sponsor the PA and any of the PA’s family members that meet the definition of a “family” used by the Canadian immigration system, even if those family members are missing, presumed dead or in detention. If sponsors do not list, and do not sponsor, all eligible family members of the PA, the PA will most likely not be able to bring them to Canada at a later date to reunite with them under any immigration stream¹ and there may be [consequences for the sponsoring group](#).

On the application forms, namely on the [Sponsorship Undertaking](#) and the [Generic Application Form for Canada](#), the sponsoring group and the PA must indicate whether the PA’s family members are accompanying or non-accompanying.

When a sponsoring group submits a sponsorship application under the PSR program, they are responsible for providing financial and settlement support to the PA and all of the PA’s accompanying and non-accompanying family members, including biological children born after the application is submitted, and must satisfy IRCC that they have the financial and settlement capacity to support the PA and all of the PA’s accompanying and non-accompanying family members at the time they submit the application. Sponsors must take into account the settlement needs of the PA and all of the PA’s accompanying and non-accompanying family members and provide details of their plan to address their needs on the [Settlement Plan](#).

When should family members of the Principal Applicant (PA) be listed as accompanying or non-accompanying on the Sponsorship Undertaking form and the Generic Application Form for Canada?

If one or more of the PA’s family members would like to travel with the PA to Canada, regardless of where they are located, the sponsoring group and the PA must indicate on the [Sponsorship Undertaking](#) and the [Generic Application Form for Canada](#) that these family members will be accompanying the PA to Canada. If the PA and their family members are listed as accompanying and they are located in different countries, the respective Visa Offices will make reasonable efforts to coordinate processing so the PA



On The RSTP Website:
A [Minimum Financial Support Calculator](#) and
Updated [RAP Rates](#) (Effective
November 01, 2019)

¹ See [Section 117\(9\)\(d\) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations](#), although there is a [two-year pilot program](#) that currently allows undeclared family members to be sponsored to Canada.

and all of their accompanying family members arrive in Canada together. Sponsors have the option to provide separate contact information on the [Sponsorship Undertaking](#) for any of the PA's family members that are not residing with the PA or are in a different country to coordinate this processing.

If one or more of the PA's family members do not, or are unable to, travel with the PA to Canada (e.g. they are missing, presumed dead or in detention), regardless of where they are located, the sponsoring group and the PA must indicate on the [Sponsorship Undertaking](#) and the [Generic Application Form for Canada](#) that these family members will be non-accompanying.

What forms and supporting documents do accompanying family members need to include with the application package?

If the PA's family members are listed as accompanying on the [Sponsorship Undertaking](#) and the [Generic Application Form for Canada](#), they must submit the following with the application package for the PA: a completed and signed [Schedule A](#) and [Schedule 2](#) (if they are 18 years of age or older); and, one photo that meets the relevant [specifications](#).

What forms and supporting documents do non-accompanying family members need to include with the application package?

If the PA's family members are listed as non-accompanying and are missing, presumed dead or in detention, there is no need to submit a photo or a completed and signed Schedule A and Schedule 2 for them. Sponsors must include a cover letter with the application package explaining the reasons why the non-accompanying dependents were unable to provide a photo or complete and sign these forms.



If the non-accompanying dependents are not missing, presumed dead or in detention, they must submit the following with the application package for the PA: a completed and signed [Schedule A](#) and [Schedule 2](#) (if they are 18 years of age or older); and, one photo that meets the relevant [specifications](#).

If the Principal Applicant (PA)'s relationship with their spouse has broken down, but there has not been a divorce or a legal separation, does the spouse need to be listed as an accompanying or non-accompanying family member on the application forms?

Yes, the spouse must still be listed as an accompanying/non-accompanying family member on the [Sponsorship Undertaking](#) and the [Generic Application Form for Canada](#) when it is submitted to ROC-O. If the application is being submitted by a SAH, a cap space will be required for the spouse.

The PA should explain the nature of the relationship with their spouse in a cover letter that is included with the application package. It is left to the Visa Office to assess the bona fides of the relationship between the PA and their spouse, and the Visa Office will decide whether the spouse should be removed from the file.

The only scenario in which the PA does not need to list their spouse as an accompanying/non-accompanying family member on the application forms is when there has been a legal separation or a divorce. If the PA is married but no longer living with their spouse and the relationship has broken down, the PA should list their marital status as "legally separated" on the [Sponsorship Undertaking](#) and the [Generic Application Form for Canada](#). When a PA declares themselves as being divorced or legally separated, the ex-spouse is not considered a family member; is not eligible for family reunification via the One-Year Window of Opportunity Provision (OYW) or the family class; and, will not be permitted to join the PA in Canada.

If the Principal Applicant (PA) is divorced or legally separate from their spouse, and the PA's spouse has legal custody of their children, should the children be listed as accompanying/non-accompanying family members on the application forms even though the PA does not have legal custody and the former spouse will not consent to the children travelling to Canada with the PA?

Yes, the children must still be listed as accompanying/non-accompanying family members on the [Sponsorship Undertaking](#) and the [Generic Application Form for Canada](#) as it will allow sponsorship under the family class in the future if circumstances change. If the application is being submitted by a SAH, cap spaces will be required for the children.

How will non-accompanying family members come to Canada to be reunited with the PA?

Family members of the PA that are listed as non-accompanying family members on the forms will be processed under the One-Year Window of Opportunity Provision (OYW). The PA has one year after their date of arrival in Canada to initiate the OYW process. For further information about the OYW and to get the required application forms, please [click here](#).

Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)

Many JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

Including:

JAS PROFILE #: 19-0986
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Uganda
COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE: Kenya
FAMILY SIZE: 1

The applicant is a 22-year-old biological male but identifies herself as a transgender female. She has completed 12 years of schooling and has experience working as a waiter. In addition to speaking Lunyankole and Luganda, the applicant is able to speak English. As she fears for her safety, which stems from her gender identity, the applicant cannot return to Uganda.

The applicant may benefit by being resettled in a community with a larger LGBTI presence, which would enable her to receive appropriate assistance with her resettlement.

The applicant does not have any relatives in Canada; as such, she will require assistance to help her in her daily life. With the additional support of a sponsor, she would be able to fully connect with the local community/resources available to her.

JAS PROFILE #: 19-0593
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Uganda
COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE: Kenya
FAMILY SIZE: 1

The applicant is a 26-year old male but identifies as female. She has completed 13 years of education and has experience as a musician and cook, and speaks fluent English. She is unable to return to her country of origin due to fear of persecution based on her sexual orientation.

As a result of these challenges coupled with the fact that she does not have any contacts in Canada, the applicant would benefit from the extra help and support upon arrival to Canada.

The applicant would also prefer to reside in Toronto, ON. The JAS program and a sponsor would be able to provide that extra time and support in order to help her successfully resettle within her community.

JAS PROFILE #: 19-0442
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Democratic Rep. of Congo
COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE: Namibia
FAMILY SIZE: 6

The applicants are a 38 year old Congolese woman accompanied by her four children. Her husband (age 42) is currently missing, and is not accompanying at this time. She is a survivor of violence and torture, and may benefit from counselling. She is completely blind, and requires daily assistance. She may require home care.

As her husband is missing, she is currently raising her children as a single parent. The family can all speak a little English, and can speak French easily. The PA has six years of education, and has some experience selling vegetables.

Refugees sponsored under the **Joint Assistance Sponsorship (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;**
- **The effects of systemic discrimination; or,**
- **Being a large family unit (such as a single parent with several children).**

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

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

*** JAS Refugee Profiles can only be picked up by SAHs and their Constituent Groups (CGs)**

For more information about a particular JAS profile or the JAS Program, please [click here](#)

UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS!

Workshops

How to Prepare and Submit a Successful Application Package

Date: Friday October 18, 2019

Time: 9am – 4pm

Location: Guelph Immigrant Services, 104 Dawson Road, Unit 102, Guelph, ON, N1H 1A6

Registration: Contact Dayami (519-836-2222 ext. 225) or Said Nixon Bangura (416-290-1700 ext. 2412)

Introduction to the PSR Program

Date: Friday October 18, 2019

Time: 10am – 11:30am

Location: OCISO, 945 Wellington Street West, 1st Floor Community Room, Ottawa, ON, K1Y 2X5

Registration: <https://introtopsr.eventbrite.ca>

Workshop on Refugee Sponsorship for Syrians

Date: Sunday October 20, 2019

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Location: Presentation Manor, 61 Fairfax Crescent, Room 130, Scarborough, ON, M1L 1Z7

Registration: Email jam@becomingneighbours.ca

Sponsoring Refugees as a Group of Five or a Community Sponsor

Date: Tuesday October 22, 2019

Time: 5pm – 8pm

Location: Catholic Social Services, 8212 118 Ave., Edmonton, AB, T5B 0S3

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-sponsorship-of-refugees-groups-of-five-and-community-sponsors-tickets-75906429173?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Introduction au Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés

Date: Mardi 22 octobre 2019

Heure: 18 h – 19 h 30

Lieu: Atelier d'Innovation Sociale Mauril-Bélanger (Salle Desjardins), 95 rue Clegg, Ottawa, ON, K1S 1C5

Inscription: <https://introparrainageprive.eventbrite.ca>

Overview of the PSR Program and How to Sponsor as a Group of Five

Date: Wednesday October 23, 2019

Time: 9am – 2pm

Location: The Skill Centre, 141 Dundas St, 3rd floor, London, ON, N6A 1G3

Registration: Contact Huda Hussein (519-663-0551 ext. 283) or Said Nixon Bangura (416-290-1700 ext. 2412)



Workshops

Working with a Sponsorship Agreement Holder for Current and Potential Refugee Sponsors

Date: Saturday November 02, 2019

Time: 9:30am – 12:30am (lunch provided)

Location: Stittsville United Church, 6255 Fernbank Road, Stittsville, ON, K2S 1A5

Registration:

<https://workingwithasah.eventbrite.ca>

Introduction au parrainage privé des réfugiés

Date: Samedi 9 novembre 2019

Heure: 13 h 30 -- 15 h 30

Lieu: North York Central Library, Salle 101 (premier étage), 5120, rue Yonge, Toronto, ON, M2N 5N9

Inscription à l'événement:

<https://parrainage-des-refugies-toronto.eventbrite.ca>

Webinars

For information on our upcoming webinars, please visit:

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

Register for our Fall 2019

Introductory E-Training Course

(starts October 21, 2019) by emailing:

etraining@rstp.ca

ICYMI: NEW RSTP TRAINER IN EDMONTON!

Christina Hamer is the new RSTP Trainer for Edmonton and Northern Alberta. Christina is based at Catholic Social Services (CSS) and can be contacted via phone: 780.391.3228 ext. 2781; and, email: chamer@rstp.ca

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada