

RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on Canada's Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Programs

Inquiries

You Asked

What documents do sponsored newcomers need if they would like to travel to another country after arriving in Canada?

Answer

Newcomers sponsored to Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR), the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR), the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) and the Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) programs that are not Canadian citizens **must** use a [travel document](#) when travelling abroad after arriving in Canada.

For information on how to apply for a travel document, please [click here](#).

Sponsored newcomers that are not Canadian citizens **should not** use a passport issued by their country of nationality when travelling. Doing so may be considered as them accepting the protection of their country (i.e. re-availment) and could lead to them losing their status in Canada through [cessation proceedings](#).

Other actions that could be re-availment include: a sponsored newcomer renewing or applying for a passport issued by their country of nationality; and, a sponsored newcomer travelling/returning to their country of nationality.

Further information on re-availment and cessation proceedings can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

The newcomers must also contact the embassy or consulate of the country they are travelling to in order to see whether:

- They need a visa to enter the country;
- They can be issued a visa on a travel document; and,
- They can enter the country using a travel document.

Some countries do not allow individuals using travel documents to enter the country and do not issue visas on travel documents.

You Asked

How long do sponsored newcomers need to stay in Canada to maintain their permanent resident status?

Answer

Permanent residents must be in Canada for at least 730 days over a 5-year period to keep their permanent resident status.

For more information on this requirement, please [click here](#).

They must also be physically present in Canada for at least 3 of the 5 years preceding their Canadian citizenship application to be eligible to apply for citizenship.

For more information on the eligibility requirements for Canadian citizenship, please [click here](#).

ICYMI: Travel Resumption Resource Kit for Refugee Sponsors

RSTP has created a resource kit for refugee sponsors that:

- Outlines the procedure that IRCC will follow before booking travel for sponsored refugees during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Summarizes the mandatory entry requirements that all persons arriving or entering Canada must follow, including sponsored refugees;
- Provides readiness checklists that sponsors can use to prepare a quarantine plan to ensure the refugees comply with the entry requirements and any instructions provided to them on arrival; and,
- Collates publicly available information and resources on COVID-19 that can assist sponsors and sponsored refugees.

The kit is available to download on the RSTP website [here](#).

The kit also shares best practices from sponsors that have welcomed refugees during the pandemic. For example, when transporting refugees from the airport to their place of quarantine, sponsors have:

- Used taxis where there is a glass or plastic shield between the driver and the passenger/s; and,
- Used large vehicles, such as SUVs, minivans or buses, that enable the driver and the passenger/s to maintain a minimum 2-meter distance.

Sponsors also confirmed the driver did not have any [signs or symptoms of COVID-19](#); ensured everyone wore masks and gloves; and, that hand sanitizer was available in the vehicle.

UPCOMING RSTP ONLINE WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

August Monthly Webinar Series

What is the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program and How Does it Work?

Date: Wednesday August 05, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2191720707861087502>

Preparing a Settlement Plan: The Financial and Settlement Responsibilities of Sponsors under the PSR Program

Date: Tuesday August 11, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1136816266823973646>

How to Prepare a Successful Application Package under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program

Date: Friday August 14, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2212673001440009230>

How to Submit a Refugee Sponsorship Application to ROC-O Via Email and Updating Applications After Submission

Date: Tuesday August 18, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6645533349214288142>

Preparing for Arrival and Providing Post-Arrival Support: Handling Unrealistic Expectations and Practicing Ethical Consideration

Date: Tuesday August 25, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7809239963377997070>

Preparing and Transitioning to Month 13

Date: Thursday August 25, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4221283932805413134>

Sponsoring LGBTQ2 Refugees through the BVOR Program or the LGBTI Refugee Sponsorship Pilot Project

Date: Wednesday August 12, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5239603223830329613>

Have Questions? Contact Your Nearest RSTP Trainer

RSTP Trainers are available to provide online workshops and webinars, assistance and support to refugee sponsors.

To find your nearest RSTP Trainer, and the contact details of other RSTP staff, please [click here](#).

How to Submit a PSR Application to ROC-O Via Email

If you are submitting a new PSR sponsorship application to ROC-O, you are strongly advised to do so [via email](#).

Please ensure that all new PSR applications are complete, and all the required forms and supporting documents are included with the application package, as currently there are no exemptions from the application requirements for new PSR applications being submitted to ROC-O.

Detailed instructions on how to submit an application to ROC-O via email can be found in the guides for [SAHs](#), [Groups of Five](#) and [Community Sponsors](#).

A video explaining how to prepare and submit a refugee sponsorship application to ROC-O via email can be found [here](#).



Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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