

FACTSHEET

Moving your family to the UK

89 – 93 Fonthill Road
Finsbury Park London N4 3JH
Tel 020 7561 6820 Fax 020 7561 6821
info@prisonersabroad.org.uk www.prisonersabroad.org.uk
Charity Number 1093710



If you are facing deportation to the UK and you are leaving loved ones behind, you may wish to consider the options that are available to you and your family. If your family are considering joining you in the UK, the decision can be extremely difficult especially if their ties have always remained in another country. You will need to decide together whether you can continue to live in different countries, or whether your family can join you, even if it is on a temporary basis. A number of issues need to be taken into consideration. Some of these are outlined below.

1 Temporary visits

If your family wish to stay permanently in the country where they are currently living, they may consider coming to visit you in the UK. This may bring up several issues to think about for them and for you, for example, how many times per year they will be able to visit and how much it is likely to cost them per visit. People coming to the UK on a tourist/visitor permit are not permitted to work so you will need to support them financially or they will need to bring sufficient funds with them to last the duration of the visit.

Most foreign nationals are able to stay in the UK as a visitor/tourist for a maximum of 6 months without needing to apply for a visa. However, nationals of some countries will need to apply in advance for a visa. Visitors to the UK may be refused entry on arrival if they do not fulfil visa requirements. To check whether your family will need to apply for a visa, ask your consular representative. You can also ask your family to check the following website which has all the information they will need on whether they need a visa and how to apply: www.ukvisas.gov.uk

2 Can my family join me permanently in the UK?

Before any family member can join you in the UK they have to obtain entry clearance. It is the Immigration & Nationality Directorate (part of the UK Home Office) which is responsible for processing applications for permanent residency in the UK. Again, you can ask your local consular representative for advice on how to proceed, or ask your family to look at the IND website: www.indhomeoffice.gov.uk

If you are already in the UK you can ask your local CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) Law Centre, or Immigration Enquiry Centre.

As a general rule, your family members can join you if:

- you are already settled in the UK; or
- you are coming to live in the UK permanently; or
- you have or are seeking permission to take up employment or set up business.

3 Can my family work in the UK?

Foreign nationals need to obtain work permits before taking up employment in the UK prior to their arrival. Entry into the UK may be refused if a work permit is not secured. Work permits are only issued for particular jobs, mostly those for individuals whom have specialized skills and knowledge including senior executive staff and highly qualified technicians. Permits will not be issued for clerical, resident domestic work such as nannies and housekeepers. Full guidelines can be found on the following website: www.workingintheuk.gov.uk

4 Medical assistance for UK residents

Foreign nationals who have settled in the UK may be deemed eligible for state assistance with the cost of public (National Health Service (NHS)) healthcare (i.e. prescriptions) the same as other UK residents.

However before assistance will be granted it may be necessary to complete a means-tested assessment to establish entitlement to assistance with NHS costs. It normally takes 14 days before a decision to be given as to whether NHS assistance can be given. British nationals that have newly returned to the UK may also be required to complete this process.

If you require this leaflet in a large print format, please contact us. Our details are below.

Tel: 020 7561 6820

Email: info@PrisonersAbroad.org.uk

Mail: Prisoners Abroad
89-93 Fonthill Road
London
N4 3JH