



**Immigration Department**  
**The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

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**Guidebook for Entry for Residence as Dependants**  
**in Hong Kong**

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## **I. Introduction**

This guidebook sets out the entry arrangement for persons who wish to enter the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) for residence as dependants.

2. This entry arrangement does not apply to:
  - (a) Chinese residents of the Mainland [except for those whose sponsors have been admitted to take up employment (as professionals, for investment to establish/join in business, or for training) or studies (in full-time undergraduate or post-graduate programmes in local degree-awarding institutions), or whose sponsors have been admitted as entrants under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme or the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme];
  - (b) former Mainland Chinese residents residing in Macao who have acquired residence in Macao through channels other than the One-way Permit Scheme; and
  - (c) nationals of Afghanistan and Korea (Democratic People's Republic of).

## **II. Eligibility Criteria**

3. For a sponsor who is a Hong Kong permanent resident or a resident who is not subject to a limit of stay (i.e. a resident with the right to land or on unconditional stay), the following dependants may apply to join him/her for residence in the HKSAR:

- (a) his/her spouse;
- (b) his/her unmarried dependent child under the age of 18; and
- (c) his/her parent aged 60 or above.

4. For a sponsor who has been admitted into the HKSAR to take up employment (as a professional, for investment to establish/join in business, or for training) or studies (in a full-time undergraduate or post-graduate programme in a local degree-awarding institution), or who is permitted to remain in the HKSAR as an entrant under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme or the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme, the following dependants may apply to join him/her for residence in the HKSAR:

- (a) his/her spouse; and
- (b) his/her unmarried dependent child under the age of 18.

5. An application for admission of a dependant may be favourably considered if:
- (a) there is reasonable proof of a genuine relationship between the applicant and the sponsor;
  - (b) there is no known record to the detriment of the applicant; and
  - (c) the sponsor is able to support the dependant's living at a standard well above the subsistence level and provide him/her with suitable accommodation in the HKSAR.

### **III. Application Procedures**

#### *Application Forms*

6. Applicant should complete Part A of application form (ID 997), while Part B of the form should be completed by the sponsor. The application form (ID 997) can be obtained free of charge from the following offices:

- (a) Immigration Department Headquarters.
- (b) Immigration Branch Offices.
- (c) Overseas Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions.
- (d) Immigration Division of the Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing.
- (e) Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong.

The form can also be downloaded from the Immigration Department's website at [www.immd.gov.hk](http://www.immd.gov.hk).

**Note:** The existing entry application forms, i.e. Application for Entry for Employment as Professionals in Hong Kong (ID 990A), Application for Entry for Training in Hong Kong (ID 992A), Application for Entry for Study in Hong Kong (ID 995A), and Application for Entry for Investment (to establish/join in business) in Hong Kong (ID 999A) have built in the accompanying dependant's application. The sponsor may include his/her accompanying dependant's application for entry for residence when completing the aforesaid entry application forms, and the accompanying dependant will not be required to complete application form (ID 997) separately.

#### *Supporting Documents*

7. Please refer to the checklist at Part VII.

### *Submission of Application*

8. The application form must be duly completed and signed. For a child applicant under the age of 16, it must be signed by the parent or legal guardian of the child. Completed application form, i.e. ID 997, and all supporting documents should be submitted by the applicant or the local sponsor in either one of the following ways:

- (a) By post directly or through the local sponsor in the HKSAR to:

Receipt and Despatch Unit  
Hong Kong Immigration Department  
2/F, Immigration Tower  
7 Gloucester Road  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

- (b) Applicants residing in overseas countries or territories may submit their application forms together with the relevant supporting documents and their travel documents in person to the nearest Chinese diplomatic and consular missions in their place of domicile.
- (c) Holders of foreign passports who are living in the Mainland of China may submit the application forms together with all supporting documents to the Immigration Division of the Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing (Beijing Office). Applicants are required to produce their travel documents to the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office so that a visa/entry permit could be issued if the application is approved. The address of the Beijing Office is:

No. 71, Di'anmen Xidajie, Xicheng District  
Beijing 100009  
People's Republic of China

#### **IV. Travel Documentation Requirement**

9. Visa/Entry permit label will be issued upon successful application. It should be collected by the sponsor from the Immigration Department for onward transmission to the successful applicant. For application submitted to the Chinese diplomatic and consular mission or the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office, visa/entry permit will be issued through the relevant Chinese diplomatic and consular mission or the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office as appropriate.

10. The visa/entry permit label should be affixed onto a blank visa page of the applicant's travel document for presentation to the immigration officer upon arrival in the HKSAR.

11. Successful applicant who is a Chinese resident of the Mainland should apply for an Exit-entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao (EEP) and a relevant exit endorsement from the Public Security Bureau office where his/her household registration is kept. The entry permit label should be affixed onto a blank endorsement page of the applicant's EEP on which his/her relevant exit endorsement has been obtained. The applicant should present the EEP for immigration examination upon arrival in the HKSAR.

## **V. Extension of Stay**

12. A dependant may apply for extension of stay for residence in the HKSAR within 4 weeks before his/her limit of stay expires. Such application will be considered only when the applicant continues to meet the eligibility criteria for entry for residence as dependants and the sponsor remains a bona fide Hong Kong resident living in the HKSAR.

13. Extension of stay in respect of dependants of persons who are Hong Kong permanent residents or residents who are not subject to a limit of stay (i.e. a resident with the right to land or on unconditional stay), if approved, will normally follow the 3-3 years pattern for the spouse and unmarried dependant children under the age of 18; and the 2-2-3 years pattern for the parents aged 60 or above.

14. The length of stay of dependants of persons who have been admitted into the HKSAR to take up employment or studies, or who are permitted to remain in the HKSAR as entrants under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme or Quality Migrant Admission Scheme, will be linked to that of their sponsors.

## **VI. Other Information**

15. In general, unless a person has the right of abode or right to land in the HKSAR, he/she requires a visa/entry permit to take up residence as dependant in the HKSAR. While each application is determined on its individual merits, an applicant should meet normal immigration requirements (such as holding a valid travel document with adequate returnability to his/her country of residence or citizenship; be of clear criminal record and raise no security or criminal concerns to the HKSAR; have no likelihood of becoming a burden on the HKSAR, etc.) as well as the relevant specific eligibility criteria detailed

above before he/she may be considered for the grant of a visa/entry permit. It should be noted that the eligibility criteria may be subject to change from time to time.

### **Conditions of Stay**

16. Dependants of the following persons are not prohibited from taking up employment in the HKSAR:

- (a) Hong Kong permanent residents;
- (b) persons who are not subject to a limit of stay (i.e. residents with the right to land or on unconditional stay);
- (c) persons who have been admitted for employment (as professionals, for investment to establish/join in business or for training); and
- (d) entrants under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme or the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme.

17. However, dependants of persons who have been admitted into the HKSAR to study are prohibited from taking up employment in the HKSAR unless they have obtained prior permission from the Director of Immigration.

18. All dependants do not require prior permission from the Director of Immigration to study in the HKSAR.

### **Re-entry into Hong Kong**

19. Non-permanent residents of the HKSAR, irrespective of their nationality and type of travel document held, do not require a re-entry visa/entry permit to enter the HKSAR provided that they return within the validity of their permitted limit of stay and that the circumstances upon which they have acquired their residential status remain unchanged. Non-permanent residents, if returning after a long absence of, say, 12 months or more, may be required to approach the Immigration Department Headquarters to have their residential status verified.

### **Right of Abode**

20. Persons admitted for residence as dependants and have ordinarily resided in the HKSAR for a continuous period of not less than 7 years may apply for the right of abode in the HKSAR in accordance with the law.

## **Payment of Fees**

21. If the application is submitted to the Hong Kong Immigration Department direct, payment of fees should be made upon collection of the visa/entry permit by the local sponsor either in cash, by EPS or by cheque. The cheque should be crossed, made payable to “The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”, properly dated and signed.

22. If the application is submitted to an overseas Chinese diplomatic and consular mission or the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office, the visa/entry permit fee should be paid direct to the Chinese diplomatic and consular mission or the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office as appropriate.

## **Processing Time**

23. It will normally take six weeks to process a visa/entry permit application for residence as dependant upon receipt of all the required documents. The Immigration Department would not be able to start processing the application unless all the required documents and information are received. Please refrain from making enquiries about the progress of the application unless it is absolutely necessary, as it may delay the processing of the application.

24. All applications are processed and determined by the Immigration Department. Approval of applications is entirely discretionary and is subject to changes in government policies. The Director of Immigration reserves absolute discretion to refuse any application even if the application meets all eligibility criteria.

## **Warning**

25. It is an offence to make false statements or representations to an immigration officer. A person who knowingly and wilfully makes a statement or gives information which he/she knows to be false or does not believe to be true shall be guilty of an offence under the Laws of Hong Kong and any such visa/entry permit issued or permission to enter or remain in the HKSAR granted shall have no effect.

## **Disclaimer**

26. The information in this guidebook serves as reference only. The Immigration Department of the HKSAR is not responsible for any loss or damage whatsoever arising out of or in connection with any information in this guidebook. The Immigration Department

reserves the right to omit, suspend or edit all information in this guidebook at any time in its absolute discretion without giving any reason or prior notice. The Immigration Department further reserves the right to change the eligibility criteria and details of the arrangement set out above from time to time without notice.

## **Enquiries**

27. For more information about the entry arrangement for residence as dependants, please contact the Immigration Department by enquiry hotline at (852) 2824 6111 or by fax at (852) 2877 7711; or visit the Immigration Department's homepage at [www.immd.gov.hk](http://www.immd.gov.hk).

## VII. Checklist of Forms and Documents to be Submitted

### (A) Forms and Documents to be Submitted by the Applicants

✓	<b>Forms/Documents Required</b>
	Application for Entry for Residence as Dependents in Hong Kong (ID 997)
	The applicant's recent photograph (affixed on page 1 of the application form ID 997)
	Photocopy of the applicant's travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry and/or details of any re-entry visa held (if applicable). For an applicant who is currently staying in Hong Kong, photocopy of his/her travel document page containing the latest arrival stamp/extension of stay label in the HKSAR. Chinese resident of the Mainland who has not been issued with a travel document may submit a photocopy of his/her People's Republic of China resident identity card.
	Photocopy of the applicant's Hong Kong identity card (if any)
	Photocopy of proof of the applicant's relationship with the sponsor, e.g. marriage certificates, birth certificates, family photographs, family letters (with envelopes), census record book and Privilege Card for Single Child (if applicable)
	Photocopy of the applicant's Macao identity card [ <i>for Macao residents only</i> ]
	Photocopy of the applicant's household registration in Taiwan and Taiwan identity card [ <i>for Taiwan residents only</i> ]

*(B) Forms and Documents to be Submitted by the Sponsors*

✓	<b>Forms/Documents Required</b>
	The applicant's application form, Application for Entry for Residence as Dependents in Hong Kong (ID 997) with Part B duly completed by the sponsor
	Photocopy of the sponsor's Hong Kong identity card
	Photocopy of the sponsor's travel document containing personal particulars, date of issue, date of expiry, and the current visa/entry permit/extension of stay label in the HKSAR (for non-permanent resident of the HKSAR only)
	Photocopy of proof of the sponsor's financial standing, e.g. bank statements, savings accounts passbooks, tax receipts and salary slips
	Photocopy of proof of sponsor's accommodation, e.g. rental receipts

**Important Notice:**

1. Notwithstanding that the documents and information required have been furnished, applicants and sponsors may still be required to submit further supporting documents and information in connection with the application(s) when necessary.
2. Where a document is not in Chinese or English, it must be accompanied by a Chinese or English translation certified as a true translation by a sworn translator, court translator, authorised public translator, certified translator, expert translator or official translator.