

MORE INFORMATION

For more information please visit the Publications Section of the website of the Law Society of Northern Ireland where leaflets on various subject matters are available. www.lawsoc-ni.org

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

The Law Society of Northern Ireland can make this information available in other formats and selected languages on request.

Please email info@lawsoc-ni.org or telephone **028 90231614**



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Are you Claiming Asylum?



Asylum law in the United Kingdom can be very complicated and confusing.

It is therefore always important to secure good legal advice and someone to present your case on your behalf.

In most circumstances the best person to do this is a solicitor who specialises in immigration or asylum law.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

The first thing you need to do is to find an immigration or asylum law solicitor.

Contact them immediately to ensure that you comply with the deadlines for making an asylum claim.

To find a solicitor in Northern Ireland who deals with immigration and asylum law you should visit the Law Society's website – www.lawsoc-ni.org and search by the category listing for **Immigration and asylum solicitor firms** or telephone - **028 90231614**

WHAT INFORMATION WILL A SOLICITOR NEED FROM YOU?

When contacting any solicitor firm it is important that you provide them with the following information:

- When you left your home country and arrived in the United Kingdom?
- How you got to the United Kingdom?
- Why you left your home country?
- Whether you are afraid to return to your home country and, if so, why?
- What are your family and personal circumstances?
- What documents have you provided to United Kingdom -Visas and Immigration services?
- What documents have you filled in and returned?

WHAT CAN THE SOLICITOR DO?

A solicitor can help you by:

- Making an appointment to make a claim for asylum
- Writing formal statements for you
- Provide advice on how strong your case is
- Apply for you to be released if you are detained (that is, locked up)
- Prepare your case and represent you if you appeal
- Give you advice on what will happen to your case, and
- Get any further information you might need to explain your claim, such as a medical report or a report from an expert about circumstances in your home country.

WILL I HAVE TO PAY THE SOLICITOR?

It depends:

- If you have little or no money, you may be able to claim free legal advice called 'legal aid' which may help with your asylum claim.
- A solicitor will explain this, and what she or he can do for you under legal aid.
- A solicitor will tell you how much they will charge you if you cannot get free advice.

ARE YOU APPLYING FOR ASYLUM?

In order for you to be recognised as a refugee you must show that you are at risk of being persecuted (treated badly) because of your:

race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group and that your home government is unable or unwilling to protect you.

In applying for asylum you must also apply for permission to remain in the United Kingdom for human rights reasons.

You must show that you would receive harsh treatment, punishment and physical violence if you were returned to your home country.

You may have other reasons and a solicitor will be able to tell you whether your claim for asylum, humanitarian protection or other permission to stay is likely to succeed.