

Single Parents in Direct Provision

Your rights before and after getting your papers!



Social Welfare

Before Papers

While in Direct Provision, you will get a Daily Expense Allowance (DEA). Each adult will get €38.80 and each child will get €29.80. If you start working, you may lose this payment.

You may also be able to get:

Clothing Allowance: You usually get this 2 times a year for clothes.

Additional Needs Payment: You can apply for this payment if there are things you need to buy that your DEA does not cover, such as school uniforms.

Working Family Payment: If you are working and have kids, you might be able to get this payment.

Back to School Allowance: This payment is to help with the costs of school uniforms and shoes for children going to school.

Please see your local INTREO office or citizens information centre for information on these payments and how to apply for them (see details below).

After Papers

When you get your papers, you will stop getting your DEA, but you can still get the Additional Needs Payment and Back to School Allowance. Once you are granted **Stamp 4 status** and register your immigration permission, you have the same social welfare entitlements as an Irish citizen.

You can apply for social welfare at your local INTREO office.

You may also be able to get:

One-Parent Family Payment: A payment to help single parents with children under 7.

Jobseekers Transitional Payment: A payment to help single parents with children aged 7-14.

Fuel Allowance: A payment to help with heating.

Child Benefit: A monthly payment to parents who have kids under 16 or kids aged 16-18 who are in school or are disabled.

Disability Payment: A payment to help people with disabilities.

Carers Allowance: A payment to people who are providing care to someone with a disability.

Working Family Payment: A payment to support people who are working and have children.

Please see your local INTREO office or citizens information centre for information on these payments and how to apply for them (see details below).

Important Contacts

Department of Social Protection: [www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-social-protection/](http://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments/departments-of-social-protection/)

The Irish Government website, where you will find lots of information such as a social welfare office (INTREO centre) near you.

Irish Refugee Council (IRC): www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

Information and help for refugees with many issues, such as housing, education, healthcare, work and applications.

Citizens Information: www.citizensinformation.ie

Information on rights and laws. You will also be able to find a citizen information centre near you.

Irish Immigration Service: www.irishimmigration.ie

Information about applying for work, visas and residency.

Other organisations helping migrants:

NASC, CrossCare, AkiDWA, Migrant Rights Centre, Immigrant Council of Ireland, DORAS.

Housing

Before Papers

While you and your children stay in Direct Provision you have the right to;

Be treated with respect. A safe place to stay. Food and cots for babies. Information about schools for your child or children. School lunches. Healthy meals. Special food for medical reasons. Personal care items and bedding. Laundry facilities. Heating. Occasional cleaning. Information on places and things you and your child can do for fun.

Can I transfer from my Direct Provision centre if I don't like it?

No, you cannot change to a different centre just because you don't like it. Changes to different centres only happens for medical reasons and in exceptional cases. If this applies to you, you can email ipasinbox@equality.gov.ie

Can I leave my accommodation centre for a few days?

If you, or your children, plan to leave the centre you must tell the centre manager in advance and complete documentation available from the centre.

If you do not tell the centre manager, you risk losing your accommodation and your DEA!

After Papers

When you get your papers, you will need to leave the Direct Provision centre and find a place to live, either by applying for social housing or renting a place.

Social housing

Social housing are homes provided by the local authorities to people with little money. The rent you pay depends on what you can afford.

Please see your local council or local authority to apply and for more information.

Renting

If you are looking for somewhere to rent for you and your family, you can find accommodation online or even from notice boards in shops.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

If you have a low income, you can apply for HAP from your local authority. With HAP, you will pay a small amount to the local authority weekly based on what you can afford, and your local authority will then pay the rest of your rent to the landlord.

Please see your local authority or citizens information centre for more information on how to apply.

Childcare

Before and After Papers

If you need childcare for children under 6 years, there is no change in what you are allowed to get before and after getting papers. For guidance for **single parents**, please see OneFamily: www.onefamily.ie

Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE):

This is a **free** pre-school programme for children before primary school. For more information, please contact eyqueries@dcya.ie.

National Childcare Scheme (NCS):

The National Childcare Scheme can also help with the costs of childcare. For more information on applying for pre-school childcare, please see the National Childcare Scheme website: www.ncs.gov.ie.

Legal Help

Before and After Papers

If you need legal help from a lawyer while in Direct Provision, you can get it **for free**. A lawyer can help you with many things, such as preparing for your interview with the International Protection Office, or giving you advice on your application.

How can I get a lawyer?

You can apply online for legal help at the **Legal Aid Board website** or you can go to one of their offices. You have to pay **10€ to apply**, but if you have little money, you may be able to get it for free.

Please see the Legal Aid Board website for more information: www.legalaidboard.ie

Important Contacts

Mercy Law: www.mercylaw.ie or (+353 01 453 7459)

Mercy Law gives free legal help for people in emergency accommodation.

Legal Aid Board: www.legalaidboard.ie.

Information about getting legal help.

Healthcare

Before Papers

When you live in Direct Provision, you and your children can get a **medical card**. A medical card will give you and your children **free doctors appointments (GPs), free public hospital care and prescriptions for medicine for cheap**. The medical card will also give you access to other free or cheap services, such as **women's health** or **mental health services for people who has suffered torture, rape or other painful experiences**.

Please see the HSE website for more information on the medical card and how to apply: www.hse.ie

After Papers

When you get papers, you may be able keep the medical card if you are under the income limits and working. See the HSE website or a local citizens information centre for more information.

If you are over the income limit, you could get a **GP visit card**. This also gives you free visits to the GP (family doctor), but **does not cover medicine, hospital charges and other services**.

Please see the HSE website for information and how to apply.

Important Contacts

Emergency services: 999 or 112

Health Service Executive: www.hse.ie

Information about healthcare and applying for medical or GP visit cards.

Medical Card Office: +353 81 822 4478

A phone number you can call for medical card applications.

Help for violence, rape and other painful experiences:

Spirasi: www.spirasi.ie or call +353 18 389 664 for help if you have suffered from violence or other painful experiences.

Women's Aid: www.womensaid.ie/get-help/ or call +353 1800 341 900 for free 24-hour help for domestic violence.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre: www.drcc.ie/services/helpline/ or call +353 1800 778 888 for free 24-hour help if you have experienced sexual violence or rape.

Education

Before Papers

In Ireland, children must go to school between ages 6-16. **Primary school** is for children aged 6-12 and it is free. **Secondary school** is for children aged 12-18, and most secondary schools are free.

If you need help finding a school, your Direct Provision centre should be able to help you.

For **third-level education** (college or university), you can apply for the International Protection Student Scheme to help with some costs **after 3 years** in Ireland.

See the government website (www.gov.ie) for more information.

Adult English classes

You may be able to get free English classes. Please see your local **Education and Training Board (ETB)** for more information on education and English classes: www.etbi.ie

Further Education

You can also do a further education course (level 5 or 6). These are lower than university level. There are many different courses such as baking. You may be able to get help with payment for the course through **VTOS**. Please see your local ETB for more information.

After Papers

When you have papers, the only thing that changes is that you can now apply for the **SUSI grant** to help with university costs **after 3 years** in Ireland.

Please see the Irish Refugee Council for advice on education and applying for grants.

Working

Before Papers

As an asylum seeker, you can apply for a work permit **after 5 months** which will let you work in Ireland. This is called **applying for Labour Market Access (LMA)**.

How can I apply?

You can only apply on the Immigration Service Delivery (INIS) website. You will need to make an account on Irish Immigration Service first: <https://portal.irishimmigration.ie/en/>

Please see the Irish Immigration Service website and the Irish Refugee Council website for more information and how to apply for work.

After Papers

After getting your papers, you can work the same as any Irish citizen.

Please remember that you need to register with the **Revenue (revenue.ie) to pay tax when you start working.**

Important Contacts

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Information about applying for work, visas and residency.

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Information and help for refugees with many issues, such as housing, education, healthcare and applications.

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Information on rights and laws. You will also be able to find a citizen information centre near you.

Irish Immigration Service: www.irishimmigration.ie

Information about applying for work and for papers.

Revenue: www.revenue.ie

Register online with Revenue to pay tax when you start working.

Department of Social Protection:

www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments/departments-of-social-protection/

The Irish Government website, where you will find lots of information such as a social welfare office (INTREO centre) near you.

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