

## Legal counselling in the procedure for international protection

Persons who have applied for international protection and whose procedure is pending before the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) are entitled, as of 12 June 2026, to legal counselling in the procedure for international protection.

Within the framework of legal counselling, applicants receive information on the course of the procedure and on their rights and obligations in the procedure. They are supported in accessing the procedure for international protection, enabled to make informed decisions in their procedure, and assisted in complying with their obligations to cooperate in a timely manner.

Legal counselling is based on the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) Practical Guide on Information Provision in the EU. It includes the provision of general information in group formats and in plain language, complemented by the possibility of brief individual conversations.

To access legal counselling, a request must be submitted to the BFA via the online form at [www.asylum.austria.at](http://www.asylum.austria.at) from 12 June 2026 onwards.

<https://citizen.bmi.gv.at/at.gv.bmi.fnsbfaweb-p/bfa/public/Rechtsauskunft>



Persons who have submitted a request for legal counselling and belong to the target group will be contacted by BBU GmbH and invited to an appointment.

Information on the course of the procedure and on the rights and obligations in the procedure is first provided in a group appointment. If needed, brief individual conversations may take place afterwards.

The composition of the groups is based on the relevant type of procedure and the applicants' language.

The appointments take place with the support of an interpreter.

Contents of the legal counselling:

- Information on the relevant procedure under which the application is examined
  - procedure for international protection
  - procedure for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection
  - border procedure
- Information on the procedural steps following the lodging of the application
- Information on rights and obligations in the relevant procedure
- Information on procedural guarantees for applicants with special needs (e.g. unaccompanied minors, persons subjected to torture, victims of trafficking in human beings)

- Information on age assessment and on guarantees for unaccompanied minors
- Information on the data collected and biometric data
- Information on the significance of the location of family members
- Information on the requirements, conduct and scope of the personal interview
- Information on statements, evidence and documents that may be helpful
- Information on possible consequences of failure to comply with the obligations to cooperate
- Explanation of the available remedies, as well as information on the right to remain during the appeal procedure
- Information on the right to free legal assistance and representation in the appeal procedure

A request for legal counselling may be submitted immediately after the registration of the application for international protection or at any time during the pending procedure before the BFA.