

The Refugee Claim Process in Canada

Under Canada's immigration laws, a person in Canada can claim status as a Convention Refugee or a Person in Need of Protection.

Convention Refugees are people who are outside of their country who have a well-founded fear of persecution due to their race, religion, political opinion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group.

Persons in Need of Protection are people who face torture, risk to life, or risk to cruel and unusual treatment or punishment, if they return to their country of nationality or residence

Designated Countries of Origin

A Claimant may be categorized as an individual from a Designated Country of Origin (DCO). Refugee Claimants from DCO countries should be aware that timelines differ for claimants from DCO countries.

It is important for you to know if your country is on the Designated Country of Origins list. To find out if your country is listed, visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/reform-safe.asp>

Important Government Agencies

These 3 Government agencies are directly involved during your claim process. If you change your address or phone number, you must contact each of the agencies separately with your new information.

Immigration and Refugee Board —Refugee Protection Division (IRB-RPD)

- Reviews your Basis of Claim (BOC) Form
- Conducts your refugee hearing
- Decides whether your refugee claim is accepted or rejected

Contact:

Library Square, 16th Floor
300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver BC V6B 6C9

Phone: 604-666-5946 or 1-866-787-7472
Fax: 604-666-3043
Website: www.irb-cisr.gc.ca

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

- Determines eligibility to make a claim at a Port of Entry
- Controls the Canadian borders
- Arranges removal from Canada if you receive a negative decision on your refugee claim
- Has the right to detain if they cannot confirm your identity, if they believe you may be a danger, or if they believe you may not comply with Canada immigration laws

Contact:

Library Square, 7th Floor
300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver BC V6B 6C9

Phone: 1-800-461-9999
Website: www.cbsa.asfc.gc.ca

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

- Determines eligibility to make a refugee claim from within Canada
- Processes work permits and Interim Federal Health Insurance (IFH)

Contact:

1148 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2C3

Phone: 1-888-242-2100
Website: www.cic.gc.ca

Call 2-1-1 if you have questions

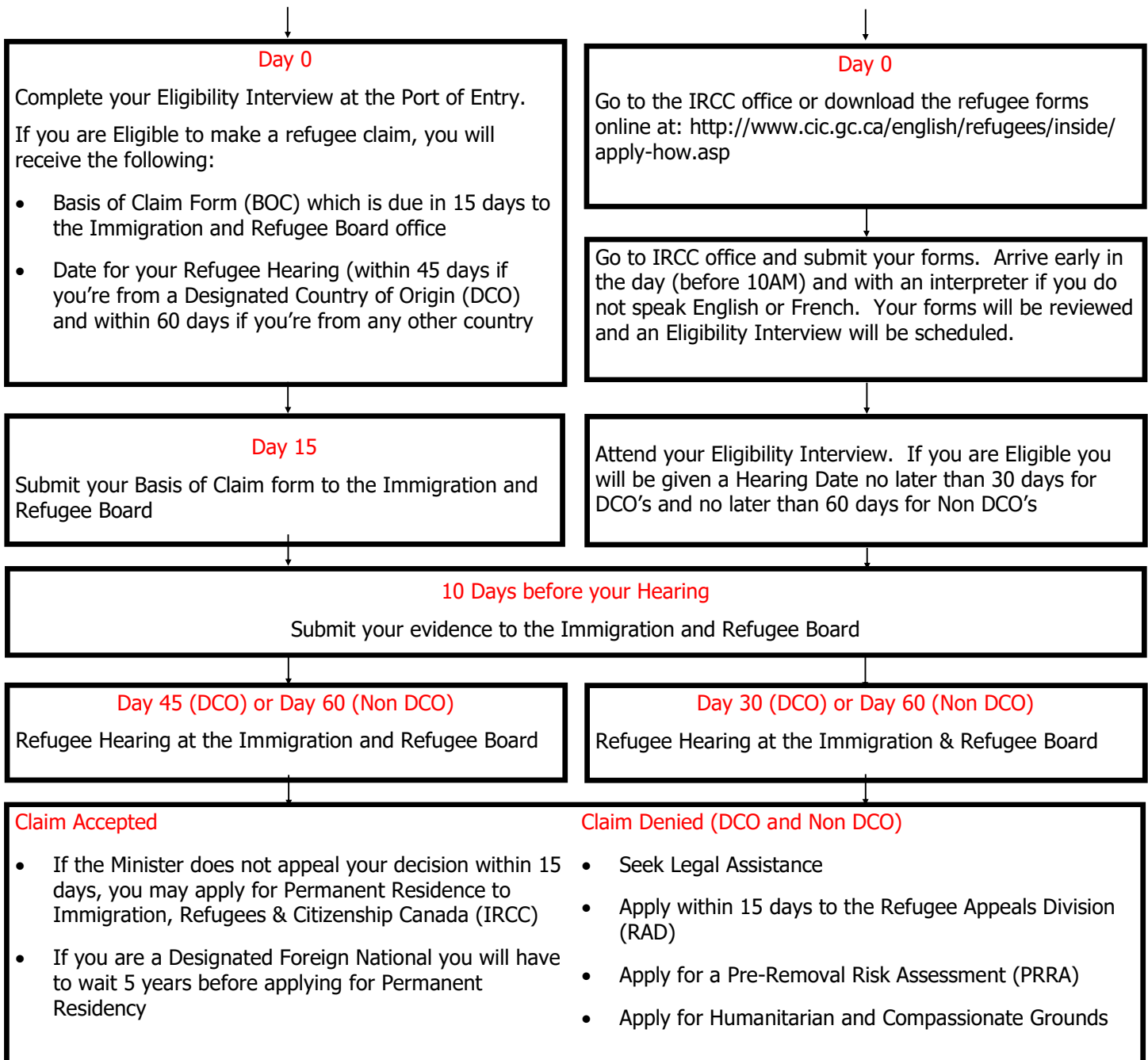
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Find Legal representation to help you fill out the refugee forms and for all steps in the refugee process. If you need help with this, call 2-1-1 and an agent will help you

There are 2 timelines for refugee claimants in Canada. Choose which timeline you fall under:

I made a refugee claim at a Port of Entry (airport, land border, seaport) with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

I made a refugee claim inside of Canada with Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC) - or - I want to make a claim with IRCC



Call 2-1-1 if you have questions