

Project “Legal Counselling in the Procedure of Approval of International Protection 2021”

LEGAL COUNSELLING FOR APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

1. WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO LEGAL COUNSELLING?

Any applicant for international protection who has no financial resources or things of significant value that enable him/her to have an appropriate standard of living.

2. WHO PROVIDES LEGAL COUNSELLING?

Croatian Law Centre can give you legal information or legal advice during the entire course of the procedure before the Ministry of the Interior.

3. WHAT DOES LEGAL COUNSELLING INCLUDE?

Legal counselling includes provision of the following legal information:

HOW IS THE PROCEDURE OF APPROVAL OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION CONDUCTED?

Once you express your intention to apply for international protection and you submit your application, the procedure for approval of international protection commences.

First, a Dublin procedure will be conducted to determine which State is responsible for examining your application. If it is determined that another Member State of the European Union, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland is responsible for your application, a decision is rendered that Croatia is not responsible for your application and that you shall be transferred to the State responsible, i.e. to one of the above-mentioned countries.

Further procedural stages include an interview (that may or may not be conducted repeatedly), and an assessment of all the facts and circumstances you have set forth. After that, a decision is rendered, which can be either positive (whereby you are granted asylum or subsidiary protection) or negative (whereby you have not received international protection).

WHAT STAGE OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE APPROVAL OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IS YOUR APPLICATION AT?

Your application for international protection should be resolved within six (6) months of the day of submission of an application. If a decision cannot be rendered within that time limit, you will be informed of the time needed before you can expect a decision. The absolute time limit to render a decision is 21 months.

You can ask us at what stage of the proceedings is your application, and we will do our best to give you information as complete as possible.



WHY WAS YOUR APPLICATION REJECTED?

You can ask us to explain to you the reasons listed in the negative decision on your application.

DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO LEGAL REMEDY?

Yes, you can bring a claim against the negative decision before the Administrative Court. Instructions on how to bring a claim and on the time limit to do so are included in the negative decision, towards the end of the text.

DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE LEGAL AID?

If a negative decision is rendered in your case, and you do not have sufficient funds (that is, enough money), you are entitled to free legal aid during the procedure before the Administrative court. The list of attorneys and lawyers who provide free legal aid will be given to you with the decision on your application for international protection.

DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO WORK?

You acquire the right to work if more than nine (9) months have elapsed since the application for international protection was submitted and the decision on it has still not been rendered, and you, through your conduct, have not caused the reasons for the failure to render a decision. To exercise this right, you must submit a special request to the Ministry of the Interior, who will issue a certificate that you have acquired the right to work.

The right to work does not guarantee that you will get a job, but you have the right to look for one and to start working when and if you find it.

4. IN WHICH LANGUAGE IS THE LEGAL COUNSELLING PROVIDED?

Legal counselling is provided in a language which an applicant may justifiably be presumed to understand and in which he/she is able to communicate.

5. HOW CAN YOU GET LEGAL COUNSELLING?

To receive legal advice, you can contact lawyers of the association CROATIAN LAW CENTRE, every working day from 9:00 until 17:00, in one of the following ways:

- by phone on +385 1/76 56 490, or
- on the mobile phone +385 91/405 88 33, or
- on WhatsApp or Viber on the same number, or
- at the e-mail address hpc@hpc.hr, or
- by making an appointment for an in-person counselling. Our address is Bednjanska 8a, Zagreb (1st floor, turn right and walk until the end of the hallway)

Legal counselling is provided upon a request by the applicant on an individual basis.

Croatian Law Centre, Zagreb, Bednjanska 8a/l

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