

# Refugee Claim Process (BC CONTEXT)

## First 24 Hours



After walking across the border, asylum seekers themselves contact or are picked up by either police or directly by CBSA (Canada Border Services Agency) or they make their claim at an IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) office.



Upon arrival at YVR, the individual expresses their need for protection to a CBSA officer. They are interviewed and an intake form is completed as well as security checks. They may be asked to come back the next day if more time is needed. If necessary, an interpreter will be called (either in person or over the phone). Once this procedure is completed, they are given the First Contact brochure for services.



CBSA or IRCC officers screen the identity of the asylum seeker and complete security checks which can take up to 8 hours for each person.



Emergency care is provided if needed. Depending on need and availability, food and blankets are also provided.

## Next Two Weeks



CBSA has 72 hours to decide if they are eligible to make a refugee claim. If eligible their case is referred to the IRB (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada) and they have 15 days to submit the Basis of Claim (BOC) form to IRB.



For those who cannot prove their identity or have criminal convictions for serious crimes, they are detained until they can prove that they are not a risk, or they will be deported.



CBSA and IRCC refers refugee claimants to the Canadian Red Cross First Contact Program, which assesses the needs of the claimants and refers them on appropriately to agencies such as Inland Refugee Society of BC (IRS) and Settlement Orientation Services (SOS).



During this time they are referred to SOS for assistance with their paperwork and referral to legal aid, and to IRS for necessities such as food, clothing and shelter. A limited number are referred to transitional housing with Journey Home Community, Inasmuch Community Society, and Kinbrace Community Society.



Once an asylum seeker has submitted the BOC and opened their refugee claim, they receive the Refugee Protection Claimant document. With that document they are able to do the medical exam, receive the medical certificate and become eligible for provincial social assistance, a work permit, as well as a temporary social insurance number.



Asylum seekers are eligible for IFHP (Interim Federal health Program) that provides them with basic and supplemental health services including the coverage of one Immigration Medical Exam.

## Next 2 Months and Beyond



IRB hears most claims within 60 days (sometimes longer due to backlog). Refugee claimants access help preparing for their hearings through [refugeeclaim.ca](http://refugeeclaim.ca) (READY Tours and the Hearing Preparation Guide) and the VAST-SOS "Getting Through It" Weekly group. If the claim is accepted, the person receives the Protected Person Status and can apply for Permanent Residence.



Support services received after IRB acceptance include: settlement services including orientation and information, language assessment, employment program accessibility, trauma therapy, and connections to help integration into their communities.

## IRB Rejected Claims



Refugee claims that have been rejected by the IRB will have a chance to appeal to the IRB appeal division. BC is one of the provinces that continues to provide supports during the appeal process.



If the appeal is rejected, they have 30 days to leave voluntarily before the federal government issues a removal order.