



EMPLOYMENT

BANKING

TORONTO



# **FAMILY SPONSORSHIP VISAS**

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*This chapter has information on all the Family Sponsored visas for Canada. You will find information on who can sponsor a person under Family Sponsorship, how to apply and what financial support your sponsor must provide.*

### Who can sponsor under the family class?

Canadian citizens and permanent residents living in Canada, 18 years of age or older, may sponsor close relatives or family members who want to become permanent residents of Canada.

### Who can be sponsored in the family class?

- Spouses, common-law or conjugal partners 16 years of age or older
- Parents and grandparents
- Dependent children, including adopted children (see below for definition)
- Children under 18 years of age whom you intend to adopt
- Brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces or grandchildren who are orphans, under the age of 18 and not married or in a common-law relationship and

- Any other relative if you have none of the above relatives or family members, either in Canada or abroad.

**A son or daughter is dependent when the child:**

- Is under the age of 22 and does not have a spouse or common-law partner
- Is a full time student and is substantially dependent on a parent for financial support since before the age of 22, or since becoming a spouse or common-law partner (if this happened before age 22) or
- Is financially dependent on a parent since before the age of 22 because of a disability.

## Can I sponsor someone if I live outside Canada?

Canadian citizens living abroad who intend to return to Canada may sponsor their spouses, common-law or conjugal partners or dependent children who have no dependent children. To sponsor any other eligible relatives (e.g. parents and grandparents) you must be resident in Canada. If you are not a Canadian citizen, you cannot sponsor if you live outside Canada.

For further information on the sponsorship process and to obtain the sponsorship application form and guide please see the website: [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

## Do I have to financially support the person/s I sponsor?

Yes, when you sponsor a relative or family member to become a permanent resident of Canada, you must promise to support that person and their accompanying family members for a period of 3 to 10 years depending on their age and relationship to you. This unconditional promise of support comes in the form of an Undertaking with the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

You must also sign a Sponsorship Agreement with the person you are sponsoring and all accompanying family members that outlines your

commitment to support them and their commitment to make every effort to be self-supporting. Dependent children under the age of 22 do not have to sign the Sponsorship Agreement.

If you are sponsoring your spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner, you must provide financial support for **3 years** from the date that person becomes a permanent resident.

If you are sponsoring your, or your spouse's, common-law or conjugal partner's dependent child who is less than 22 years of age, you must provide financial support for **10 years** from the date that person becomes a permanent resident or until the child turns **25 years of age**, whichever comes first.

If you are sponsoring your, or your spouse's, common-law or conjugal partner's dependent child who is 22 years of age or older, you must provide financial support for **3 years** from the date that person becomes a permanent resident.

If you are sponsoring any other person not mentioned above, you must provide financial support for **10 years** from the date that person becomes a permanent resident.





# HEALTHCARE

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*This chapter is important for everyone to read as it covers the health system in Canada, including Medicare. You will find information on applying for a Health Insurance Card, finding a doctor and what you may need to know if you move from one province to another.*

Canada's public health insurance system is known as Medicare. Through Medicare, you don't have to "pay" directly for most Healthcare services: you pay for them through your taxes. Medicare is available to all permanent residents and Canadian citizens. In some provinces, temporary workers, students and others who are in Canada temporarily may also be eligible.

The federal government sets Healthcare standards for all of Canada, but each province manages its own Healthcare program. In some provinces, there is a small monthly fee for health insurance. There are also minor differences in eligibility and services provided from province to province.

You must apply for a Health Insurance Card in order to avail of Medicare. Medical services are available across Canada from hospitals, clinics, doctors and other Healthcare providers. When you receive medical services, you must show your Health Insurance Card or you may have to pay for the services you receive. If you do not have a Health Insurance Card, you will have to pay to receive the medical services you need.

Please refer to the website [www.chp-pcs.gc.ca](http://www.chp-pcs.gc.ca) for more information on health services in Canada.

### How do I apply for a Health Insurance Card?

You should apply for a Health Insurance Card as soon as you arrive in Canada. Each member of your family must have their own Health Insurance Card. To apply for a Health Insurance Card, contact the Ministry of Health in the province or territory where you live. You can get an application form from any doctor's office, hospital or pharmacy, or directly from your Ministry of Health. You will need to show some identification such as your birth certificate or passport and your Confirmation of Permanent Residence (IMM 5292). Your Permanent Resident Card may also be presented.

Permanent residents in British Columbia, Ontario, Québec and New Brunswick have a 3 month eligibility-waiting period. During this time you should apply for temporary private health insurance coverage.

Private insurance companies are listed in the yellow pages of the telephone book, usually under "Insurance." Private health insurance is also available for services that are not covered under the government health insurance plan. These might include dental costs or private hospital rooms. Some employers also offer additional health insurance for a monthly deduction from your wages.

In most provinces, health insurance does not cover the cost of prescription drugs, dental care, ambulance services and prescription glasses. Always bring your card with you when you go to the doctor or the hospital. A Health Insurance Card must not be exchanged with anyone else. It is for your use only and you could lose the benefits it provides by letting other people use it.

## What medical services will Medicare cover?

Healthcare services covered by Medicare include:

- Examination and treatment by family doctors
- Many types of surgery
- Most treatments by specialists
- Hospital care
- X-rays
- Many laboratory tests
- Most vaccinations.

## What medical services will Medicare not cover?

Your public health insurance will only pay for essential or medically necessary services. In most provinces Medicare will not cover the following services (you will have to pay for these services yourself):

- Ambulance services
- Prescription drugs
- Dental care
- Glasses and contact lenses.

If you have a job in Canada you may be covered for some or all of the costs of these services through a workplace benefits package. Ask your employer if you are not sure.

### **What if I visit or move to a new Province?**

If you are visiting another province you can use your Health Insurance Card in an emergency. If you move to another province temporarily, you should contact the provincial ministry of health office in your home province before you leave.

If you are moving permanently to another province reapply for a new provincial health card as soon as possible. There are waiting periods before your coverage begins in your new province although the province you left will continue to provide coverage for a limited period of time.

## How can I find a doctor or clinic?

Most Canadians have a family doctor and dentist. To help you find a doctor or clinic you should:

- Ask an immigrant organisation or someone you know to recommend one
- Look them up in the yellow pages of the telephone book under “Physicians and Surgeons,” or “Dentists”.

Canada also has a large number of medical clinics, which can offer a variety of health services without an appointment or in a minor emergency. These are listed under “Clinics” or “Clinics-Medical” in the yellow pages.

## **Immunization for children**

You can arrange to have your child immunized through your own doctor or pediatrician, or through a public health clinic. You will receive an immunization or vaccination record, which you may have to provide to your child's school.

## **Immunization for adults**

If you were not immunized against preventable diseases before coming to Canada, you should contact your doctor or local public health clinic immediately.