



# HONG KONG VISA

HANDBOOK



## Visa Information

### Legal Dependents



## Eligibility

If you hold the Right of Abode, Right to Land or unconditional stay, you are eligible to sponsor dependant visas for your legal spouse (both heterosexual and same-sex partners), unmarried dependant children under the age of 18 and your dependant parents who are aged 60 or older. If you hold any other kind of visa (employment, investment, training, capital investment, business investment, Quality Migrant Admission Scheme or student) you are eligible to sponsor dependant visas for your legal spouse and unmarried dependant children under the age of 18 only.

## Approvability Test

This type of application is all about being able to demonstrate that the sponsor can put food on the table and a roof over the head of the sponsored dependants. The HKID state that an application for admission of a dependant may be favourably considered if:

- There is reasonable proof of a genuine relationship between the applicant and the sponsor;
- There is no known record to the detriment of the applicant; and
- The sponsor is able to support the dependant's living at a standard well above the subsistence level and provide him/her with suitable accommodation in the HKSAR.

## Satisfying the Approvability Test

These cases tend to be merely administrative in nature. Once you have been able to establish the legal family connections through birth, marriage and/or civil partnership certificates and can show proof of income, at least a modest bank balance, copies of your tenancy agreement/property ownership certificates and proof that you are a genuine family, the applications are approved with little fuss. Problems can emerge where the official certifications are not in either English or Chinese and thus official translations issued by the consulate of the issuing country will be required.

## How to Apply

You can apply for dependent visas either as part of the sponsor's principal application (if you are applying for an employment visa, Admission of Mainland Talents, non-local graduates, training, study or business investment visa) or as a stand alone application. If the former, you include the details of your dependants on the principal application form, if the latter on form ID997. Applicants under the Quality Migrants Admission Scheme and the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme should complete the separate ID997 for their dependants. Applications can be submitted via the Receipt & Dispatch counter (2/F) of Immigration Tower, either by post or in person, for those who are visitors to Hong Kong as part of a change of status application, and for those who are currently resident as part of change of category application.



## Approval Formalities

The process of approval will depend on how the application was submitted. If you are overseas, you will be provided with an entry visa sticker to place on a new page in your passport so that your dependant visa status will be activated when you enter Hong Kong. If you have applied whilst in Hong Kong your new dependant visa status will be endorsed directly into your passport and your previous status cancelled. Other than dependants sponsored by student visa holders, all dependants are permitted to work on their dependants visa permissions. The period of stay granted will mirror exactly that which your sponsor holds.



### Preparing Your Case

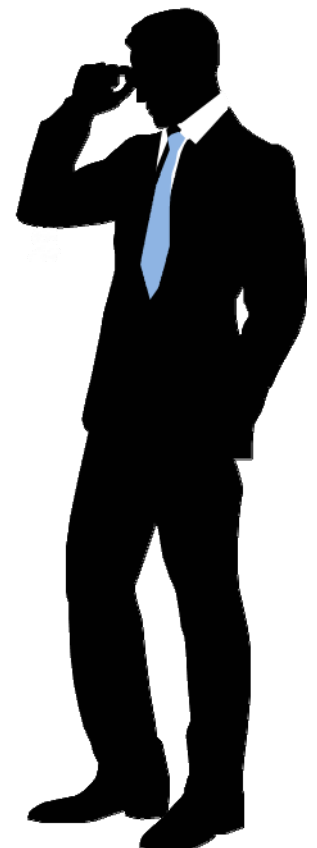
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### Highlights

- Dependant visas tend to be administrative in nature
- The family sponsor needs to be able to show he/she can put food on the table/roof over heads
- Birth, marriage and/or civil partnership certificates are essential
- The period of stay granted mirrors the principal sponsors



### Discussion





## Documents Required

1. Application forms fully completed and executed by both the applicant and sponsor.
2. A confirmation letter to be signed by the sponsor confirming that he/she will be responsible for meeting the applicant's financial needs in Hong Kong.
3. A letter from the sponsor's employer/company in Hong Kong and/or a copy of the Employment Contract showing the sponsor's financial package.
4. Copy of current residential tenancy agreement in Hong Kong where the family will live (or proof of ownership).
5. Copy of the both the sponsor's and applicants' bank statements for the past three months and/or other supporting documents as proof of financial stability of the family.
6. Family photos evidencing the sponsor and the applicant(s)' relationship.
7. Copies of birth (where applicable for dependant children), marriage and/or civil partnership certificates.
8. Copy of passports details page of both the sponsor and the applicant(s).
9. Copy of the sponsor's Hong Kong Identity Card, if any.
10. Documents indicating the sponsor and the applicant(s) were living together overseas prior to their arrival in Hong Kong (e.g. phone bills, bank statements/other utility bills, letters addressed to the same address to both of the sponsor and the applicant separately), if applicable.



## Refusal & Appeal

If your case is denied, you can elect to start the appeal process with a formal request for Reconsideration. If you are a visitor seeking to change your status, the HKID will not afford you an extension to your current period of stay during the Reconsideration process. See the section on Appeals.

## A Space for Your Notes



Discussion

