

Immigration Support for Young Migrants in Care

If you have an immigration or nationality issue, your social worker or personal adviser should identify it as early as possible.



At your first meeting, they should ask you questions to identify and understand any immigration issues you have.

They should record any issues you have on their system and make a plan to help you get status. If you are under 18 it is important they try and help you get status before you turn 18.

Don't assume you are British even if you were born in the UK.

You can ask them any questions so you understand the process more. It is a complicated system and it is okay to ask for help.

You should be connected to good quality legal advice

Your social worker or PA might be able to connect you to a good solicitor. If they cannot, they can refer you to an organisation that can help you with your immigration or nationality issue and finding a good solicitor.

Depending on your situation, you may be able to get a solicitor for free, this is called Legal Aid. Always ask whether this is possible before paying a solicitor money. If you are being asked for money - talk to your social worker to make sure this is correct.

A good solicitor gives you all the information you need and checks with you to make sure all your paperwork is correct before they send it to the Home Office. They ask for your permission and always tell you about what is going on with your case. A good solicitor is friendly, listens to you, supports you, and gives you hope! If you have a bad solicitor, your social worker should help you make a complaint and find a new one.

You might need different types of solicitors depending on your situation. Your social worker or PA should explain to you everyone's role and what they are supporting you with.



You should get support from your social worker with your applications and throughout the whole process, including any appeals.



Your social worker should help you to get all the evidence you need for your application. It is important they know and tell you about any deadlines you have.

If you get a refusal, this doesn't always mean it is the end of your journey - your social worker or PA should support you to talk to your solicitor to find out your options. Legal Aid might still be available at this stage so make sure you have access to it, if it is.

This process can be difficult, so find out what emotional support is available to you. Your social worker can refer you for this support.

You can get more help from organisations to access education, health care and find communities that can support you - ask your social worker about these so they can refer you.

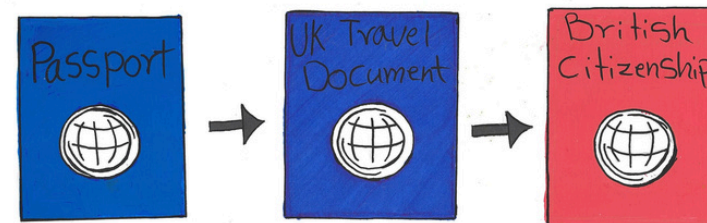
At the right time, you can get support from your social worker or personal advisor to apply for permanent status or British Citizenship.

Your social worker or PA should understand that temporary status is not enough and when to apply for permanent status.

Your social worker should help you get advice on the quickest routes to these permanent forms of status and help you understand your options. They should talk to you about your options, so you understand the decision you are making.

This information should be included in your care or pathway plan and there should be a plan for how these applications will be funded.

If you want to travel outside of the UK, speak to your social worker to find out what options might be available



WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE YOUNG COMMUNITY LEADERS AT SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION FOR CREATING THIS FOR YOUNG MIGRANTS IN CARE.
For more information visit <https://www.slr-a.org.uk/campaigns/immigration-support-pledge/>