

## **TEMPORARY RESIDENT PERMIT (TRP) FOR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE**

### **What is a TRP for victims of family violence?**

If you are experiencing family violence or abuse and don't have status in Canada, you may be able to apply for a special permit, known as a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP) for victims of family violence. A TRP is generally given to someone who is "inadmissible," meaning they cannot enter or stay in Canada for certain reasons, or to someone who doesn't meet the requirements of Immigration Law. In those cases, if it is justified, a TRP allows a person to stay in Canada for a short period of time. A TRP for family violence (TRP-FV) is specifically for people who are facing abuse in the family and either have no status or have lost status in Canada.

### **Who is eligible for a TRP for victims of family violence?**

You can apply for a TRP for victims of family violence if:

- You are living in Canada and are facing abuse from your spouse or common-law partner and;
- You have applied or you want to apply for permanent residence (PR) and getting your PR status depends on staying in the abusive relationship with your spouse/partner.
- You have no immigration status

You might be able to apply if you have temporary status (like a visitor visa). Note: If you have a valid temporary visa (like a visitor visa, work permit, or study permit) your application may be turned down and you may have to apply when your valid status has ended and the period to restore it has ended. This can be a complicated decision and you may want to speak to a lawyer.

These are some examples of situations where you may be eligible:

- Your spouse or partner has applied to sponsor you to become a PR, but you've left them because of the abuse or you haven't left because you're scared you will lose your status
- Your abusive spouse or partner has withdrawn their sponsorship application
- Your abusive spouse or partner told you they would submit a sponsorship application but never did
- You came to Canada as a visitor, worker or student, and were hoping to apply for PR through your spouse or partner, but the relationship has become abusive and your spouse or partner hasn't submitted a sponsorship application

**\*When you apply for the TRP FV, you can also apply for a work permit at the same time that will allow you to work in Canada while you stay here. You can also get temporary health coverage.**

**Note:** There is no fee for this application when you apply for the first time. You will only have to pay a fee if you apply for any TRP after the first one. Your initial work permit is also free, but you will need to pay if you renew the work permit.

### **Examples of abuse/family violence**

There are many forms of abuse/family violence. A few examples are:

- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse
- Financial abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Neglect
- Isolation / not allowing you to meet or speak to family or friends, or to take classes or work

**Note:** The abuse does not need to be physical to be considered violence.

### **Proof of Family Violence**

It is good to have proof of the violence you have faced, because it will help the immigration officer to make a decision in your favour. But even if you don't have any proof, that's okay. In this situation, you should just explain to IRCC in your own words what happened to you. If you do have any proof, you can attach it to your application. Some examples of proof/evidence include:

- Witness statements
- Police records
- A letter from your doctor or any other medical professionals you have seen (a psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, counsellor, nurse, or other medical professionals)
- Letters from a social worker or support worker
- Letters from workers at a shelter
- Letters from a member of your faith (example: Imam, Priest)
- Photos of injuries
- Emails or texts from the abuser

An Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Officer may make a decision based on the documentation you have provided. They may also request you to attend a phone or in-person interview if they believe it is safe to do so and will not cause any difficulty.

### **How long will my TRP for victims of family violence be valid for?**

The IRCC Officer will issue a TRP for a minimum of 6 months but often for 12 months.

In deciding how long you should get the TRP for, the officer considers the following:

- Your ties to Canada
- Any child custody or family law related issues
- The time you need for reflection and to consider your other immigration options
- Giving you a chance to escape the abuser so you can make an informed decision on a future course of action
- Any other reason the officer thinks is important to help protect you from the violence

### **How to Apply**

- You can apply by submitting a TRP application to the local IRCC office closest to you. When you apply for a TRP, you can apply for a work permit at the same time.
- The applications are found on the IRCC website
- If you have a lawyer, they can submit the application on your behalf

If you don't have a lawyer and if you are not sure whether or not to apply for a TRP, or if you want information about a TRP or your other immigration options, you can:

- Contact the IRCC Client Support Centre (CSC) at 1-888-242-2100 ( [TTY] 1-888-576-8502)
- Go to a local IRCC office in person
- Submit your inquiry in an online web form found on the IRCC Website

### **Processing time:**

IRCC intends to process these applications quickly but there is no guarantee on how fast your application will be processed.