
A GUIDE TO REUNITING WITH FAMILY

FEBRUARY 2025

ParryField
Lawyers



To the heart of what matters.

Client Testimonial

“You can't imagine the happiness our family had with the news. This will be the 1st time in 6 years the whole family will be together. My *deepest gratitude* to you and your office.”

To the heart of what matters. 

About us



We provide practical legal assistance that gets
“to the heart of what matters.”
No jargon, we get straight to it.

We have experience in all aspects of immigration law and offer professional, reliable and comprehensive legal advice and assistance with your immigration needs.

We understand the confusion arising when faced with so many different immigration categories and policies. Our goal is to serve you in a professional and efficient way by assessing your immigration status, giving you realistic options and preparing your applications (in consultation with you).

WHY CHOOSE US :

Cost-effective: We are dedicated to providing competitive pricing for our services. Your interests are our priority.

Size: We are not the biggest or the smallest! Our team of more than 80 staff are well-resourced to ensure high-quality work, yet can still be fast-moving and nimble. We are not constrained by resources nor rigid processes.

Location: We understand the importance and dynamics of local knowledge and operations.

Innovative: Sometimes things call for a different approach. We enjoy being a law firm who challenge the way law firms traditionally work with their clients.

Client-focussed: We prioritise forming strong relationships with clients and gaining a better understanding of their needs. Our advice is not one-size-fits-all, rather bespoke solutions to each client's unique situation.

A GUIDE TO *REUNITING* *WITH YOUR FAMILY*

If you have a loved one — a partner, child/grandchild, or parent — who is studying, working, or residing in New Zealand (NZ), and you wish to visit them temporarily or permanently, this guide will help you identify the appropriate visa to apply for.

We are here to guide you through the process and offer tips to make your application smoother.



WHO NEEDS A FAMILY-RELATED VISA

Depending on your relationship and purpose of visit, you may be eligible for the following types of visas:

1. **Partnership-based Visitor, Work and Resident Visa** – Apply if you:

- Have a partner who is an NZ citizen or resident, or
- Have a partner who is working or studying in NZ, and
- Meet the partnership threshold.

2. **Dependent child Visitor, Student and Resident Visa** – Apply if you:

- Have a parent or legal guardian who is an NZ citizen or resident, or
- Have a parent or legal guardian who is working or studying in NZ.

3. **Parent Visitor, Resident and Retirement Visa** – Apply if you:

- Have a child who is an NZ citizen or resident, and
- Either your child is eligible to sponsor you or you wish to invest and retire in NZ.



WHEN YOU NEED TO APPLY

For a temporary visit, we recommend to prepare the application at least three months in advance. The processing times will depend on which visa type you apply for. Immigration New Zealand (**INZ**) may take additional time to assess the partnership-based applications. As such, we recommend preparing a partnership-based application as early as you can.



WHAT YOU NEED TO PREPARE

For a **Partnership-based Visitor and Work Visa**

- *Generic documents for you (applicant)*
 - *Identity:* A passport must be valid for at least three months beyond your planned departure from NZ.
 - *Chest X-Ray/Medical Examination:* May be required depending on the duration of your stay.
 - *Police Certificate:* May be required depending on the length of your stay.
 - *Evidence of Genuine Intentions:* Proof of your reason for visiting or working in NZ, such as living with your partner or staying with them while working.
- *Generic documents for your partner*
 - *Identity:* A passport must be valid for at least three months beyond your planned departure from NZ.
 - *Immigration status:* Proof of NZ citizenship, residency, or a valid work or study visa.
 - *Good character:* Must have no convictions for domestic violence or sexual offences. A police certificate may be required for any country they lived in for 12 months or more over the past ten years.
 - *Eligible supporting partner:*
 - If your partner holds a work or student visa, they must complete the sponsor form.
 - If your partner is a NZ citizen or resident, aside from the sponsor form, they must be eligible to support a partnership-based resident visa application within 12 months. Kindly note, NZ citizens and residents can support only one partner for residence within a five-year period and a maximum of two partners for residence in total.
- *Partnership related documents*
 - *Relationship:* Proof that you and your partner have been living together in a genuine and stable relationship. For a partnership-based work visa, you are generally required to have lived together for at least six months. If you are unsure, contact us for a preliminary assessment of your partnership evidence.
 - *Plan to live in NZ together:* Both you and your partner must plan to live in NZ for the same period of time.
- *Visitor visa-specific requirements*
 - *Funds or sponsorship:* You must have access to sufficient funds. Alternatively, your partner can demonstrate their ability to support you financially.
 - *Onward travel:* You must have a ticket to leave NZ or enough funds to purchase one, or your sponsor does.

- Dependent child: Can be included
 - Must complete an “Additional Dependants for a Visitor Visa” form.
 - Refer to the next section, “For a Dependent Child Visitor, Student, and Resident Visa,” for more information.

For a **Partnership-based Resident Visa**, aside from the generic documents listed above for you (applicant) and your partner, you must also prepare the following information:

- *Your partner’s immigration status:*
 - Your partner must be an NZ citizen or resident.
 - If your partner is an Australian citizen or resident, they must live in NZ.
- *Relationship:*
 - You and your partner must have been living together in a genuine and stable relationship for at least 12 months at the time you apply.
 - If you are unsure about the evidence required to prove your partnership, you may contact us.
- *Dependent child:* Can be included,
- Refer to the next section, “For a Dependent Child Visitor, Student, and Resident Visa,” for more information.
 - *Custody of Child 15 and under.* Please refer to the next section “For a Dependent child visitor, student and resident visa” of this guide.

For a **Dependent child Visitor and Student Visa**, in addition to the generic documents for your child (applicant), you must prepare the following information:

- Specific documents for your child
 - *Dependent child status:* Must be single and depend on you financially.
 - 17 or under: If single, your child will be presumed to be dependent.
 - 18–19: Single with no child of their own and evidence of actual dependence.
 - *Relationship with your child:* Full birth certificate or adoption papers.
 - *Custody of child 15 or under:* If you are separated or divorced, you must provide legal documents that demonstrate:
 - Your sole right to make decisions regarding your child, or
 - Your right to remove your child from their home country, or
 - The other parent’s consent for the child to leave their home country.
- *Parent’s documents*
 - *Immigration status:* Proof of your valid work or student visa.
 - *Minimum income:*
 - If you hold an Essential Skills Work Visa or Accredited Employer Work Visa, you must meet a minimum income threshold.
 - If you hold a Religious Worker Work Visa, you must meet a minimum income threshold and provide a completed “Sponsorship Form for Religious Workers” form showing the religious organisation will also support your children.

- EOI in a ballot: Once the EOI is submitted, it will be placed in a ballot, with selections made every three months until it expires after two years.
 - Health care: if your child is not entitled to free health care, you must declare that you will pay for any health care or medical assistance.
 - Funds or sponsorship (if parent is a student visa holder)
 - For a student visa application: Must provide sufficient funds.
 - For a visitor visa application: Must provide sufficient funds.
 - Onward travel: a travel ticket or proof of sufficient funds to purchase on.

For a **Dependent Child Resident Visa**, in addition to the generic documents and specific documents for your child, you must prepare the following information:

- Specific documents for residency
 - Dependent child status: Must be single and depend on you financially.
 - 20–24: single with no child of their own and evidence of actual dependence.
 - English language: If they are aged 16 and over, and were eligible to be included in the General Skills Category, the Skilled Migrant Category, Business Immigration Instructions or Business Investor Category, they need to meet the English language requirements.
- Parent's documents
 - Immigration status: You must be an NZ citizen or resident, or an Australia citizen.
 - Your place of residence: NZ must be your primary place of residence.

For a **Parent and Grandparent Visitor Visa**, along with the generic documents for you, you must prepare the following information:

- Health care: Must agree to pay your own health care costs, or your sponsor agrees to pay.
- Your partner: Can be included in the application, if
 - your relationship meets the partnership requirements, and
 - your partner also meets the identity, character and health requirements.
- Your sponsor: Must be sponsored by your child or grandchild, or their parents, who is
 - a NZ citizen or resident,
 - your child or grandchild, or their parent,
 - 18 or over, and
 - an acceptable sponsor.

For a **Parent Resident Visa**, this application has two stages: submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) and applying after receiving an Invitation to Apply (ITA).

- EOI: Must complete a "Parent Category Expression of Interest Form" including the generic documents and the following information. At this stage, evidence or supporting documents are not required.
 - English speaking ability,
 - Your family,

- Your partner, if applicable, and
 - Your sponsor(s), including their income.
- EOI in a ballot: Once the EOI is submitted, it will be placed in a ballot, with selections made every three months until it expires after two years.
- ITA: If your EOI is selected, you will receive an ITA. You must complete the *“Parent Category Residence Application”* and prepare your application documents below.
 - Your documents. You must provide evidence for your claims in the EOI.
 - Generic documents, including a valid passport, valid medical certificates and police certificates showing you are in good health and good character.
 - Relationship: You must be the parent or legal guardian of the sponsoring child(ren).
 - If you are parents, you must provide birth certificates or adoption papers.
 - If you are child’s grandparent or legal guardian (and their parents are deceased), you must provide the evidence of parents’ death certificates.
 - If you are legal guardian, you must also provide evidence you had custody of the child and you had the right to bring them up until they turn 18.
 - English language: either an acceptable English language test result or evidence of an English speaking background.
 - Your sponsor’s documents: must prove that your sponsor meets the following requirements:
 - be 18 or over,
 - have been a NZ citizen or resident for at least three years prior to the application,
 - live in NZ, and have spent 184 or more days in NZ in each of the three years prior to the application,
 - agree to meet your living costs for the first ten years of your residence, if necessary,
 - agree to cover the costs of sending you home, if necessary,
 - provide IRD tax statements as evidence of their income,
 - income: for one sponsor, generally, it starts at 1.5 times the median wage for one parent, and increased by half the median wage amount for each parent. For two sponsors, it starts at two times the median wage for one parent, and increases by half the median wage amount for each additional parent. Please contact us if you need more details regarding the sponsor’s income requirements or the visa application process.
 - Your partner: Can be included in the application, if:
 - your relationship meets the partnership requirements, and
 - your partner also meets the identity, character, health and English requirements.
 - Your dependent child(ren): no dependent child(ren) can be included.

- For a **Parent Retirement Visa**, along with the generic documents of your identity, health and character, you must prepare the following documents:
- Your child's documents:
 - Immigration status: Must be a NZ citizen or resident.
 - Place of residence: Must live in NZ.
- Your documents:
 - No dependent child.
 - Relationship with your sponsoring child: You must be the parent of the sponsoring child(ren).
 - Investment funds: Must have NZD\$1million or more to invest in NZ for four years.
 - You must nominate the type, location and value of the funds and/or assets you intend to invest.
 - The value of your nominated funds depends on whether they are owned by you alone or jointly with another person.
 - The funds and/or assets you nominate cannot be borrowed, or have a loan or bond against them.
 - The funds and/or assets you nominate that are or were in NZ cannot be gifted.
 - Source of investment funds: Must have earned or acquired your funds lawfully.
 - Transfer investment funds:
 - Must transfer your investment funds directly from your bank account to NZ through the banking system.
 - Have 12 months from the date you receive the approval in principle to transfer and invest your funds.
 - Settlement funds: Must have at least NZD\$0.5million.
 - Annual income: Must have an annual income of NZD\$60,000 or more.
- Partner:
 - Can be included in your application.
 - Must meet the relationship requirements besides the generic identity, character and health requirements.

NOTE: For all applications, you must provide certified full English translations of any documents that are not in English.



HOW TO APPLY

- *Online:* The quickest and easiest way to apply is online via the INZ's website. We highly recommend to apply online. Note for some applications, only paper applications can be submitted.
- *Paper Application:* You can also submit a paper application at an NZ Visa Application Centre. The details of receiving centre are based on the country you live.

Please ensure you upload or attach all necessary documents when submitting your application. Also, provide English translation for evidence is not in English.



TIPS

- **INZ Recognised Partnership:** It is not as simple as providing a marriage certificate. INZ recognizes a relationship through evidence demonstrating a genuine and stable relationship, living together, financial interdependence, and public acknowledgment. We suggest you contact us for an assessment to ensure the INZ criteria are met.
- **Dependent Child Aged 21 or Over in a Residence Application:** You must provide evidence of actual dependence. This includes documentation of their paid employment, studies, and living arrangements, which will affect the assessment of dependence. In most cases, the evidence is straightforward, but if your child has special circumstances or you want to ensure compliance with the criteria, please do not hesitate to contact us.
- **Investment Funds:** This is one of the more complicated aspects of the Parent Retirement Resident Visa. The nominated type, location, value, and timing of the funds are all based on your individual circumstances, and INZ assesses these aspects on a case-by-case basis. We suggest you contact us early in the process so we can make a bespoke plan for you.
- **Health and Character:** If you have any health or character issues, whether they involve a medical condition or an offence, it is always advisable to address them before submitting your application. We can assess the potential risks and outcomes based on your individual situation and make a bespoke plan for you.

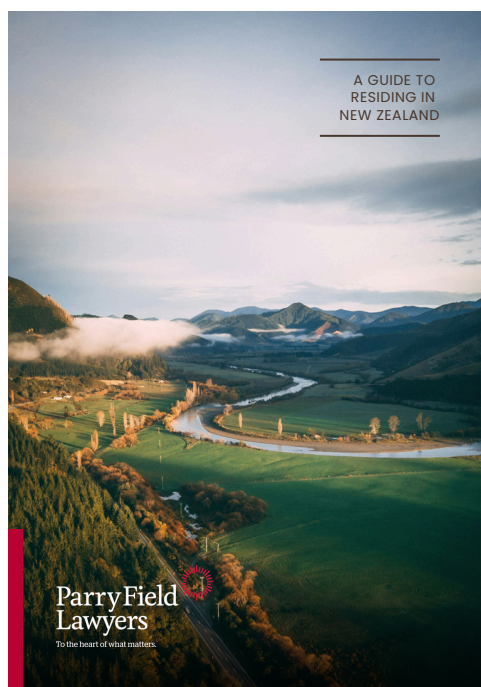
Other free guides at parryfield.com include:



[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



WRITTEN BY PARRY FIELD LAWYERS
PARRYFIELD.COM

These materials remain the property of Parry Field Lawyers Limited.
If you wish to use them, please acknowledge the source (Parry Field Lawyers).

Notice of Disclaimer: Please note that this guide is not a substitute for legal advice and you should contact your lawyer about your specific situation. Please feel free to contact us by email immigration@parryfield.com or by phone +64 3348 8480