
A GUIDE TO
REUNITING WITH FAMILY

PARRY FIELD LAWYERS



ParryField
Lawyers

To the heart of what matters.

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“You can’t imagine the happiness our family had with the news. This will be the first time in six years the whole family will be together.

My deepest gratitude to you and your office.”

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About Parry Field Lawyers

We are a New Zealand owned company that has been serving our clients since 1948. Our aim is not only to provide sound legal advice, but to also find solutions which deliver the best practical outcome for those we represent.

Our History

In 2023 we celebrated 75 years in practice. Our founder, Glynn Parry, was joined in partnership by Brian Field in the early 1950s. Since the later 1970s, Peter van Rij, Ken Lord, and Grant Adams have each led the firm into a new period of growth. Today we have grown to 11 partners, around 100 staff and operate from five locations. Parry Field Lawyers incorporated as a company under the Companies Act 1993 on 1 July 2021.

To The Heart Of What Matters

We see our clients in a rounded way and wanted to help them with 'what really matters', for legal services and beyond, where appropriate. With our growing team, we are excited by what the future holds and look forward to continuing to provide exceptional legal services to our valued clients.

Find out more at parryfield.com

Compiled by the Parry Field Lawyers Immigration Team

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PARRY FIELD LAWYERS

A GUIDE TO RESIDING IN NEW ZEALAND

The Immigration team at Parry Field Lawyers 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 that can arise when faced with 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 application, in consultation with you.

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 as smooth as possible.

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WHO AND WHEN?

Who needs a Family-Related Visa

Depending on your relationship and the 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 a New Zealand (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 a 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 a 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 that you 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. Therefore, we recommend preparing a partnership-based application as early as you can.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO PREPARE?

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.

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:** Your partner must have no convictions for domestic violence or sexual offences. A police certificate may be required for any country they have lived in for 12 months or more over the past 10 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.
 - ◆ **Please 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.

Specific Documents

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 you or your spouse must have enough funds to purchase one.

Dependent child - can be included

- You 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.



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO PREPARE?

Partnership-based Resident Visa

Aside from the generic documents listed on the previous page for you (applicant) and your partner, you must also prepare the following information:

- **Your partner's immigration status:**
 - Your partner must be a 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 a child 15 years and under: Please refer to the next section "*For a Dependent Child Visitor, Student and Resident Visa*" in this guide.

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 years or under: If single, your child will be presumed to be dependent.
 - 18-19 years: Single with no child(ren) of their own and evidence of actual dependence.
- **Relationship with your child:** Full birth certificate or adoption papers.
- **Custody of a child 15 years 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](#) showing the religious organisation will also support your children.

Expression of Interest (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:** You must provide sufficient funds.
 - **For a Visitor Visa Application:** You must provide sufficient funds.
 - **Onward travel:** A travel ticket or proof of sufficient funds to purchase one.

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:** They must be single and depend on you financially.
 - 20-24 years: Single with no child(ren) 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 a NZ citizen or resident, or an Australian citizen.
- **Place of residence:** NZ must be your primary place of residence.

Parent and Grandparent Visitor Visa

Along with the generic documents for you, you must prepare the following information:

- **Health care:** You 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:** You must be sponsored by your child or grandchild, or their parent, who is:
 - a NZ citizen or resident;
 - your child, grandchild, or their parent;

- 18 years or over; and
- an acceptable sponsor.

Parent Resident Visa

This application has two stages:

1. submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI); and
2. applying after receiving an Invitation to Apply (ITA).

Expression of Interest (EOI)

- You must complete a [Parent Category Expression of Interest Form](#) including the generic documents and the following information:
 - your english speaking ability;
 - your family;
 - your partner (if applicable); and
 - your sponsor(s), including their income.

At this stage, evidence or supporting documents are not required.

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.

Invitation to Apply (ITA)

If your EOI is selected, you will receive an ITA. You must complete the [Parent Category Residence Application](#) and prepare your application documents as follows.

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 a child's grandparent or legal guardian** (and their parents are deceased): You must provide the evidence of parents' death certificates.
 - **If you are a legal guardian:** You must provide evidence you have custody of the child and you have the right to bring them up until they turn 18.
 - **English language:** You must provide either an acceptable English language test result, or evidence of an English speaking background.
- ♦ For two sponsors, income 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 sponsor's documents

You must prove that your sponsor meets the following requirements:

- they are 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 at least 184 days in NZ in each of the three years preceding the application;
- if necessary, they agree to meet your living costs for the first ten years of your residence;
- if necessary, they agree to cover the costs of sending you home; and
- provide IRD tax statements as evidence of their income.
 - Income:
 - ♦ Generally, for one sponsor, income starts at 1.5 times the median wage for one parent, and increases by half the median wage amount for each parent.

Your dependent child(ren)

No dependent child(ren) can be included.



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:

- **Dependent child(ren):** You must not have any dependent children.
- **Relationship with your sponsoring child:** You must be the parent of the sponsoring child(ren).
- **Investment funds:** Must have at least NZD \$1 million 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:** You must have earned or acquired your funds lawfully. Transfer investment funds:
 - You 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:** You must have at least NZD \$0.5 million.
- **Annual income:** You 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 Immigration New Zealand (INZ) website. We highly recommend applying online.
 - **Note:** For some applications, only paper applications can be submitted.
- **Paper Application:** You can also submit a paper application at a NZ Visa Application Centre. The details of the receiving centre are based on the country where you live.

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

Tips

- **INZ Recognised Partnership:** It is not as simple as providing a marriage certificate. INZ recognises 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 INZ criteria is 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.

To the heart of what matters. 



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