

Visa for the reunification of a minor child with a person who has parental rights and has citizenship or a residence permit in Germany.

It is strongly recommended to provide a complete set of documents in accordance with the list of requirements below in order to avoid delays in visa processing.

The decision to issue a visa is the responsibility of the (competent) German diplomatic or consular mission in Russia. Please note: The Diplomatic mission has the right to request additional or missing documents, which may increase the time for consideration of your application.

When applying for persons under the age of 18, please read the "**Minors**" memo on the VisaMetric website.

Applicants must have with them the originals of all necessary documents and their copies.

- **[Printed completed visa application \(original\)](#)**
One application for the issuance of a national visa filled out in German and personally signed by all persons with parental rights, as well as 2 explanations signed by all persons with parental rights in accordance with sections 53, 54 of the Law on Stay in the Territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.
If a person with parental rights is unable to sign the application, he must declare his consent to the visa in writing in a free form. In this case, it is necessary to attach 1 copy of the page with the personal data of the identity document (for example, passport, identity card, internal passport), a person who has parental rights and is unable to sign the application.
- **Contact form for the Consulate.**
(see the Forms section)
- **2 up-to-date biometric passport-format photos taken no earlier than 6 months ago at the time of application submission, on a white background, 45x35 mm in size.**
Please attach one photo to application (despite the indication on the application "do not attach") and bring a second photo with you.
- **Passport with 1 copy of the page with personal data.**
The passport must be signed and contain at least 3 free pages. Must be valid for at least 12 months from the start date of the trip.
- **If the child is already 14 years old: an internal passport with 1 copy of the page with personal data and 1 copy of all pages with marks.**
For citizens who do not own Russian citizenship – a residence permit in Russian Federation with 1 copy.
- **1 copy of the passport or identity card of the parent living in Germany and 1 copy of the certificate of registration at the place of residence (Meldebescheinigung),** which must be issued no earlier than 6 months before the date of submission of documents. For citizens of other countries - an additional 1 copy of a residence permit in Germany.
- **A free-form invitation** from a person who has parental rights and with whom reunification is planned to live together in Germany with a free-form statement of readiness to bear the costs of maintaining a child moving to Germany, written in German or English, with 1 copy.
- **In case of moving to Germany together with a person with parental rights:** a lease agreement, a document of ownership or a similar document indicating the future address of residence with 1 copy.
- **Birth certificate** with apostille and certified translation into German with 1 copy
 - If only one parent is included in the birth certificate, this is sufficient proof that he has sole parental right.
 - If changes have been made to the birth certificate, for example, striking out, the name changes, an extract from the Civil Registry Office registration book with an apostille and a certified translation into German with 1 copy should be provided.

- **Proof of knowledge of the German language with 1 copy if necessary.** Please, check the information in the "Important information" section.
- **Medical insurance policy issued in the EU, with 1 copy.** In case of family reunification, the State medical insurance begins to take effect from the moment the applicant is included in the family insurance. As a rule, this is possible after entering Germany and registering at the place of residence. In case of reunification with a foreign citizen working in Germany, the state medical insurance begins to operate from the beginning of the employment relationship. Before the applicant is included in the family state health insurance, it is necessary to purchase a private health insurance policy. We recommend to conclude medical insurance for foreign citizens entering the country (the so-called "Incoming-Versicherung"). Health insurance policies for travelers may exclude insurance coverage in the event of a planned long stay in the country. **In case of reunification with a parent living in Germany, a medical insurance policy can be provided upon receipt of a visa. Only medical insurance issued in EU countries is accepted for consideration.**
- **In the case of the sole parental right of one of the parents with whom the reunion takes place:**
 - the decision of the Russian court on the deprivation of parental rights or the death certificate of another person who had parental rights, with an apostille and with a certified translation into German with 1 copy.
- **In the case of joint parental rights and when reuniting with only one of the parents:**
 - a notarized indefinite statement of consent of a person remaining in Russia with parental rights to leave and permanently (!) stay of a child in the Federal Republic of Germany until he reaches the age of majority with a certified translation into German and 1 copy.
 - 1 copy of the internal passport of the person remaining in Russia with parental rights.

Important information:

- The main condition for applying for a visa is the following: the applicant must be a minor (under 18 years old), and he must not be married.
- If a minor child enters Germany **after the age of 16** without a person who has parental or sole parental right, but later, then he must speak German at the C1 level in accordance with the Pan-European Competencies of Foreign Language Proficiency. Exceptions to the language confirmation requirement apply if:
 - it seems guaranteed that the child can integrate into the living conditions in the Federal Republic of Germany on the basis of his previous education and living conditions. This can generally be assumed for children who grew up in a member state of the European Union or the Agreement on the European Economic Area or in Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand or the United States of America. It can also be assumed that children who verifiably come from a German-speaking family or who have attended a German-speaking school abroad for more than a short period of time will integrate.
 - If the foreign parent of the child has a residence permit in accordance with § 23 Abs. 4, § 25 Abs. 1 or 2, permanent residence permit in accordance with § 26 Abs. 3 or, after the issuance of a residence permit in accordance with § 25 Abs. 2 point 1 second alternative - permanent residence permit in accordance with § 26 (4).
 - If the child's parent or spouse residing with the child in a family community has a residence permit in accordance with § 18c Abs. 3, EU blue card, ICT card or mobile ICT card, or residence permit in accordance with §§ 18a, 18b Abs. 1, §§ 18d, 18f, § 19c Abs. 1 i.V.m. §§ 3 no. 1 and 3, 5 BeschV, § 19c Abs. 2 or 4 Abs. 1 or § 21 or directly in the process of obtaining such a permanent residence permit or residence permit.
- When reuniting with a parent working in Germany as a researcher and a visiting scientist: the reunification of the child with the family is possible only if the duration of their stay is **more than a year**, and there is evidence of sufficient living space and additional financial resources.
- If remaining in the Russian Federation of the person having parental rights, there is no possibility in the near future or in the future to Express the will (for example, to issue a statement on the consent of the child for permanent residence in the Federal Republic of Germany), the person who holds parental rights, and which is planned reunion, **before** the filing of the application shall e-mail contact with the German foreign office in the Russian Federation in accordance with its consular district.
- Additional documents not specified in this memo may be requested when applying for a national visa or during the processing of documents.
- All documents written in a language other than German must be provided with a translation into German. Translations made by a translator in the Russian Federation must be notarized. For translations made by a sworn translator in Germany, notarization is not required.
- Translation of internal and foreign passports, as well as medical insurance into German is **not** required.

- Documents issued by the Civil Registry Office or the court must have an apostille. This rule does not apply to German documents and, as a rule, documents from other EU countries. Please note that the apostille must be on the original document (and not on copies). If there is an apostille, it must also be translated.
- All original documents and their translations must be provided with 1 copy. Notarization of copies of documents is **not** required.
- Pay attention to the completeness of the submitted documents! An incomplete set of documents may cause a refusal to issue a national visa.

Checklist

This checklist is used exclusively for self-control and preparation of documents for submission.

Please distribute all the documents attached to the application in the following order.

The set must contain all originals (civil status documents, diplomas, passports, etc.) and copies of all documents in the following order. These originals will be returned to you immediately after their verification during the submission of documents.

- 1 photo;
- application form with an attached photo;
- medical insurance policy issued in the EU;
- invitation of the person with parental rights, with whom the reunion takes place;
- a copy of the passport of the person with parental rights and a certificate of registration at the place of residence, if available, a residence permit;
- birth certificate;
- confirmation of the sole parental right or notarized consent to the departure of the child from the parent remaining in Russia;
- when moving together: lease agreement, ownership document;
- if necessary, a language certificate;
- if necessary, other confirmations;
- internal passport + a copy of the page with personal data + copies of all pages with marks;
- a foreign passport + a copy of the page with personal data +, if necessary, a copy of a temporary residence permit or a residence permit in the Russian Federation.

This memo is updated if necessary and does not claim to be complete.