

## Reunification of other family members in the presence of circumstances of special severity

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 signed with his own hand, including explanations in accordance with sections 53, 54 of the Law on Stay in the Territory of the Federal Republic of Germany. For minors, the visa application is signed by all persons with parental rights. 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.
- **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 the Russian Federation with 1 copy.
- **An invitation from the person with whom the reunion is taking place, with the obligation to bear all costs in accordance with §§ 66-68 of the Law on Stay with 1 copy.**
- **1 copy of the page with personal data of the passport** or identity documents of relatives living in Germany, as well as, if available, 1 copy of their residence permit.
- **Documents confirming relationship** with relatives living in Germany with whom the reunification is taking place with 1 copy of each document, for example: certificates of birth, adoption, change of name or surname change, marriage, divorce and death, as well as judicial or administrative decisions, etc.
- **A letter from an inviting relative in Germany**, or from his legal representative, in which convincing evidence of circumstances of special severity is indicated with 1 copy.
- **Up-to-date documents, from which it follows for what reasons it is necessary to reunite with relatives living in Germany**, for example: up-to-date certificates from a doctor, confirmations from nursing homes and disabled people, from patronage services, social protection agencies, etc. with a certified translation into German with 1 copy.

- **Medical insurance policy issued in the EU, with 1 copy.** It is necessary to provide proof of the availability of private health insurance for a long-term stay in Germany. Please collect the necessary information about the terms and cost of private health insurance in advance. Health insurance policies for those traveling abroad are not sufficient in this sense. They may not contain the necessary insurance conditions if a long-term stay is planned. A medical insurance policy can be provided upon receipt of a visa.
- If necessary, other documents with a certified translation into German with 1 copy.

**Important information:**

- Permission for family members (with the exception of spouses, minor children and parents who have sole parental rights in relation to their minor children) to be reunited with German or third-country citizens may be granted only in cases where this can help them avoid circumstances of special severity (section 36 of the Residence Act).
- The circumstances of special severity are understood as cases, in which a family member is in dire need of life-saving assistance from another family member, and this life-saving assistance can only be properly provided in Germany (for example, due to an exceptional need for care). Circumstances of special severity should always be determined by the individual characteristics of a particular case (for example, illness, disability, need for care, severe mental condition).
- Unfavorable conditions at school, economic, social and other conditions at home cannot be considered as circumstances of special severity.
- When applying for a visa for the purpose of family reunification, in the case of special severity circumstances, the personal presence of the applicant is also required due to the submission of biometric data (fingerprints), since on the day of submission of documents there is a mandatory procedure for fingerprinting.
- 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 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 copy). 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 whom the reunion is taking place, with the obligation to assume the costs;
- a copy of the passport of the inviting person, if available, a residence permit;
- confirmation of relationship;
- confirmation of circumstances of special severity;
- 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.***