



Your role as a Designated Representative to a refugee claimant child

All children (under 18 years of age), are assigned a “Designated Representative” to support them in their refugee case. You have been identified as the Designated Representative for a child who is in the refugee claim process.

What is a Designated Representative?

The role of the Designated Representative is to support the child through the process, to explain to them what is happening and to help them make decisions.

A Designated Representative must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Understand the nature of the proceedings
- Be willing and able to act in the best interests of the child appearing before the IRB
- Not have interests that conflict with those of the child appearing before the IRB

You should be present with the child when they:

- Meet with their lawyer
- Meet with immigration officers
- Attend their refugee hearing

As a Designated Representative, you should **help the child prepare for their refugee hearing**. You should attend **meetings with the lawyer** and make sure the lawyer listens to and understands what the child wants. You should **help the child to collect evidence** for their refugee hearing, including reports and letters from their country that show what happened to them. You should not do anything without the child’s permission and you should keep their process and what they tell you confidential.

You are encouraged to give the child **emotional support** throughout the refugee process. It can be a stressful process for anyone, especially a child.

To learn more about the refugee process so you can support the child well, you can visit: myrefugeeclaim.ca

If you have questions about your role as a Designated Representative or you want some guidance, you can contact the Centre for Refugee Children:

Phone: 416-469-5067

Email: childrep@CRCrefugee.ca