



Your applications for the right to remain have all been rejected?

In each federal state there is a group of experts (the **Hardship Commission**) who work together with that state's Ministry of the Interior. If you have tried all the legal options to get a right to stay, but your applications have been rejected by the Immigration Office, you legally have to leave Germany. But if leaving Germany would be particularly hard for you - for example, because you have built a life in Germany and no longer have any connection to your country of origin - you can apply for a "hardship case".

The Hardship Commission can ask the Minister of the Interior to make an exception so that you can stay here. However, this residence permit is rarely granted. Therefore, you have to prove that you are in a particularly difficult situation. You should get support for this. You can find the contact details below.

When can I make a "hardship application"?

- You have been living in Germany for at least 18 months
- You do not have the option to apply for another residence title (for example, because you cannot fulfil some conditions)
- You have (applied for) a passport and your identity has been clarified
- You are 'well integrated'



When you submit your application, you do not have to submit a passport at the same time. However, it is important that you fully explain why you do not have a passport. If it is **not possible** ("unreasonable") for you to obtain a passport - for example, because your country's embassy does not issue passports - you have to prove that you have tried everything to clarify your identity.

What does "well integrated" mean?

You are considered to be well integrated if ...

- You speak German
- You have a job and earn your own money or will do so soon (after school/vocational training or university).
- You are active in society (e.g. voluntary work).
- Your underage children (if you have any) go to school regularly.
- Your whole life is in Germany, so you are "rooted" here.



Hardship application (Härtefallantrag)



You do not have to write the "hardship application" by yourself. It is important that you make it clear how you have built a life in Germany. The application should explain in detail why it would be particularly difficult for you to leave Germany because you have developed strong social relationships and ties here. Friends, acquaintances, teachers and carers - and certainly many other people - can help you! You can write a short text about yourself and these relationships, for example, which you can submit together with your application/submission.

Where can I find support?

It makes sense to go to a counselling centre close to you. There are two in Lower Saxony:

kargah e. V.

Zur Bettfedernfabrik 1
30451 Hannover

Tel: 0511 / 12 60 78 – 13
Mail: fachberatung-hfk@kargah.de

DRK-Kreisverband Aurich e. V.

Bernd Tobiassen
Schmiedestr. 13
26603 Aurich

Tel: 04941 / 69 72 64 0
Mail: fachberatung-hfk@ewe.net

Where do I submit the application?

The immigration office is NOT responsible for this application. You can submit it to two places: Either directly to the office of the "Härtefallkommission" (1) or to a member of the "Härtefallkommission"(2):

(1) Geschäftsstelle der Härtefallkommission beim niedersächsischen Ministerium für Inneres und Sport
Lavesallee 6
30169 Hannover

(2) Die Kommissionsmitglieder findest du hier: www.hfk.niedersachsen.de



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