



Right to remain for long-term integration

Have you been living in Germany for a long time and are you well integrated?

Then you have the right to remain in Germany if you meet certain requirements. You also have this right even if your asylum application was rejected or if you did not apply for asylum at all.

What are the requirements?

- You have lived in Germany for at least 6 years (if you live alone)
- **or** you have lived in Germany for at least 4 years (if you live together with your underage child)
- You have a Duldung (temporary suspension of deportation) or residence permit according to § 104c AufenthG
- You earn the majority of your own money
- **or** you will probably earn your own money soon ("positive prognosis")
- **or** you are still going to school, are doing an apprenticeship, are studying or have an underage child - then you may get money ("benefits") from the state. Also if you cannot work because of illness.
- You speak German (A2 level)
- If you have underage children, they go to school.
- You have a passport
- **or** you have applied for a passport and can prove it
- You have not committed any serious criminal offences
- You know and accept the rules of living in German society
- Note: Your age does not matter



If it is **not possible** ("unreasonable") for you to get a passport - for example because your country's embassy does not issue passports - you have to prove that you have done everything possible to clarify your identity.

What does the obligation to cooperate mean?

The Immigration Office expects you to **actively** try to prove your identity. This usually means that you have to obtain an **identity card or passport from your country of origin**. You fulfil your obligation to cooperate if your behaviour does not actively prevent your deportation. Active prevention can be, for example, identity deception or "going into hiding".



Only if you **currently** do not cooperate is this a "violation of the obligation to cooperate". It is not about your behaviour in the past. It is also **only your own behaviour** that counts and not the behaviour of your parents and siblings!



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What else is important?

There are always **exceptions** to the requirements. Get advice if you have questions. **People are different and therefore good integration looks different for everyone.** What is important is that you make an effort and that this effort is clear to others.



Where can I find support?

It makes sense to go to a counselling centre close to you. There are refugee councils in every state and in many large cities. If you do not live in Lower Saxony, you can go to www.fluechtlingsrat.de to contact the refugee council in your federal state.

They can help you or tell you which counselling centre you can turn to.



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