

Voluntary return

Englisch/English
Information for asylum-seekers

What happens if your asylum application is rejected?

The notice rejecting your asylum application will also state by when you must leave the country. This period is normally 30 days. The deadline for leaving the country - if the asylum application is rejected as "obviously unfounded" - is one week. If you do not leave the country voluntarily, you can be forcibly returned to your country of origin (removal). You must pay the costs for your removal yourself and will have no possibility of entering Germany or another country of the EU legally for many years (entry ban). Remaining here without residence papers is no solution: you must expect to be arrested by the police at any time and to be removed to your country of origin.

Opt for a voluntary return with the support of the German authorities

If you have no money to finance leaving the country yourself, you can receive support from the return programme REAG/GARP. REAG/GARP stands for "Reintegration and Emigration Program for Asylum-Seekers in Germany / Government Assisted Repatriation Program." The support enables you to leave the country independently and to prepare your departure carefully. Your departure will be organised and the travel costs assumed; moreover you will receive additional financial support in the form of travel assistance or start-up assistance. For those returning to particular countries of origin additional assistance services are available to facilitate a new start in the country of origin, e.g. assistance in finding work and accommodation. The various possibilities can be discussed as part of personal return counselling.

Make use of the free return counselling here!



If you are interested in a voluntary return to your country of origin, you can contact the **local return counselling centre here** in confidence with any questions you may have. The return counselling provides assistance for **preparing your departure, submitting the REAG/GARP support application** and if necessary an **application for additional assistance for voluntary returnees**. If you have no valid travel documents, you will also receive assistance in procuring a passport substitute document. During counselling the use of an interpreter is intended to ensure that you understand everything. You are also free to bring someone with you to the return counselling centre to interpret for you.

You can already attend the return counselling **during the ongoing asylum proceedings** without this **affecting the outcome of the proceedings**.

Voluntary return is also possible if the asylum proceedings have not yet ended. In this case you should withdraw the asylum application before you leave the country. After withdrawing the asylum application, your travel documents will be sent to the responsible Aliens Office (the authority from which you received your temporary residence permit) by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and can be collected from there.

You can find a nearby return counselling at the following address:

If you have Internet access, you can obtain additional information on voluntary return via the following websites:
www.ReturningfromGermany.de/en/

BAMF

