

Filling out your Basis of Claim form

The Basis of Claim (BOC) form is an important document that every refugee claimant must complete. In the BOC, you explain why you're claiming refugee protection in Canada. The Refugee Board uses your BOC to decide if your refugee claim should be accepted.

The BOC is a complicated form. If you leave out important information or make mistakes, it may affect your case. Get legal help from a legal representative with experience in refugee law.

Online asylum application (eApp)

You must use the online application system called the eApp to submit your refugee claim:

- if you're already in Canada, or
- a border services officer tells you to use it.

For more information visit: canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/claim-protection-inside-canada/apply.html

Question 1(a) - 1(g): Who you are

→ Name, date of birth, and sex

- This information is usually in your passport, if you have one.

What to do if...	
The passport you used to enter Canada has a false name	Put both your legal name and the false name. Explain why your passport has a false name. For example, maybe a smuggler gave you a passport with a false name.
Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) made a mistake with your name on their forms	Put your legal name and say that CBSA or IRCC made a mistake on their forms.

What to do if...	
You have identity documents with different versions of your name	Put your legal name and all other versions of your name. Explain why you have different names on your documents. For example, your name might have different spellings because of translations from your language to English.
You don't know your date of birth	If you don't know your birth date, put the year you were born. If you don't know the year, write "I don't know."
You don't identify with the sex in your passport or other identification	Write the sex or gender that you identify with. For example, your passport says you're "female" but you identify as a male.

→ **Nationality, ethnic group, racial group or tribe, religion, and language**

- Only include information about yourself in this section.
- Include all the groups you identify with.
- If you don't identify with a group but others think that you do, include this information and explain this later in your BOC.

Category	Meaning	Examples
Nationality	The nation or country you belong to. You can be a national of a country without being a citizen of that country. For example, in some countries, a child is a national at birth but gets citizenship only when they turn 18. If you don't know if you're a national or citizen of a country, ask a lawyer.	Palestinian, Sri Lankan, Eritrean, Romani If you're a stateless Palestinian, you're a national of Palestine.
Ethnic Group	This group usually shares language and culture. They may also belong to the same racial group.	Arab, Tamil, Tigrinya, Roma

Category	Meaning	Examples
Racial Group	This group usually has a shared identity for other reasons, such as physical or geographic similarities. Your ethnic and racial groups can be the same.	Arab, South Asian, Black, Roma
Tribe or Clan	A tribe, sub-tribe, or a clan sets you apart from other people with the same citizenship and nationality.	Hutus, Buganda, Hawiye
Religion	Include your religion, or the religion others think you belong to, even if you don't actively practise that religion. Include denominations or sects, which are connected to a main religion.	Muslim, Hindu, Christian Sunni, Shia, Catholic
Language	Include all the languages you speak. Include any dialects, which are local variations to the main language.	Arabic, Tamil, Tigrinya

Reminders

1. Use more paper if you need extra space to answer these questions. Attach the extra paper to page 9 of your BOC form, before your signature.
2. This section only deals with information about you. All members of your family, including children, who are claiming refugee protection with you, must complete their own BOC.
3. If your child is:
 - 6 years old or younger, you only complete the "Who you are" section on page 2 of their BOC, and sign your name.
 - older than 6 years, you must complete all sections of their BOC, and sign your name.

You can find more information about **Refugee Law** at stepstojustice.ca.

This is general legal information for people in Ontario, Canada. It is not intended to be used as legal advice.

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