

Filling out your Basis of Claim form

What documents should I submit to support my refugee claim?

You have to support what you say in your Basis of Claim (BOC) form with documents and evidence. The table below lists the different types of documents you can submit with examples for each.

Try your best to collect as many documents as possible to support the facts in your BOC form. It's okay if you can't get some documents or never had them.

You **must** attach copies of your identity documents when you submit your BOC. You can submit all your other supporting documents and evidence later, but they must be submitted at least **10 days** before your hearing.

You must follow the [Refugee Board's rules](#) about how to submit documents. All documents must be on letter-size paper and the pages have to be numbered. You can use the [List of Claimant's Documents](#) form to list and number your documents.

Document type	Proof of	Examples
Identity documents	Your legal name, date of birth, and identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● passport ● travel document ● identity card, for example, a driver's licence ● birth certificate ● baptism certificate ● national identity card ● religious membership card ● an affidavit from someone who knew you in your home country who can confirm who you are ● any document giving you the right to have a child with you if you're not the child's parent or if the other parent is not in Canada

Document type	Proof of	Examples
Personal documents	Your relationship status; family structure; education; employment; military enrollment, or places where you have lived	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● education, business, and employment documents ● marriage or divorce certificates ● military booklet or proof of what you did to avoid doing military service ● professional, political, or social organization membership card ● rental agreements or letters from a landlord
Documents of events or experiences	What happened to you; why you left your country; what harm you suffered; what or who you're afraid of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● medical or hospital reports from your country or Canada ● police reports, arrest warrants, or court documents ● letters or affidavits from witnesses that confirm facts in your claim ● photos of events or incidents that directly affected you
Country condition documents	The situation in your country; how the situation in your country affects you; events that involved you or your family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● newspaper articles ● human rights reports ● official documents from your country, for example, a government-issued warrant, or documents that explain the laws in your country ● an expert report

Reminders

1. Start collecting documents as soon as you can.
2. If the documents are not in English or French, get them translated by a certified translator.
3. Information such as names, dates, and details of events must be the same. For example, there should not be any differences in what you:
 - said at the port of entry interview
 - included in your forms
 - have in your immigration file, such as in previous applications
 - have in personal documents used to support your claim
 - will say at your hearing

If there are any differences between documents you sent, your BOC, or your previous immigration applications, you must be able to explain them at your hearing, or the Refugee Board may reject your claim.

4. Keep a copy of your BOC and all documents and translations you submitted with it.

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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