

ADVICE FOR PEOPLE MAKING APPEALS TO THE ASYLUM SUPPORT TRIBUNAL - WHAT TO BRING

What is an Asylum Support Appeal

If you are making an appeal to the Asylum Support Tribunal (AST) it means that the Home Office have stopped giving you support or refused to give you support and you think that decision is wrong.

When you come to your appeal, you will need to show to the Adjudicator why you think the decision is wrong. To do this you have to provide evidence. An asylum support appeal is about support only and has nothing to do with your immigration case.

How Can ASAP Help You

Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP) may be able to help you on the day of your hearing so it is very important to bring all the information about your case with you. It is very difficult for ASAP to advise you properly without this information. ASAP is at the AST twice a week helping people with their appeals.

Unfortunately ASAP cannot take telephone calls from asylum seekers directly or make appointments. But if you go to one of the One Stop Services, refugee agencies or Refugee Community Organisations they can contact us about your case. A list of these is attached with this leaflet.

What Should I bring to The Hearing

When you make an appeal, the AST send you information about the hearing to the address you gave them. One of the documents they send you is a list of things they want you to provide them with. This document is called directions. If you go to your local One Stop Service they should be able to help you get the evidence the directions document asks for and help you send them to the AST.

You may need to get people to write letters for you before the hearing to be able to bring all the information listed below.

It is also useful to bring the following documents if they apply to your case. This is for guidance only because each case is different. Please try to get advice from One Stop Service or other advice agencies, or ask them to call our Advice Line for you.

- Information about where you are living. If you are living with a friend who wants you to leave you should bring a letter from them explaining this. If you have been sleeping on the streets and getting food and money from any charity you should ask that charity to put information about what they give you in writing. If any friends give you food, money, clothing or let you stay with them occasionally you should ask them to write a letter about this for you. If they are not able to continue to help you regularly, it is very important that they clearly say so in the letter.

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ASAP is a charity organisation which provides advice and representation to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers at their asylum support appeal hearings We also give advice to other voluntary advice agencies about asylum support appeals. ASAP is not connected to the Home Office and is independent of the AST.

ASAP Factsheets:**No 1: Asylum Support****No 2: Section 4 Support for Failed Asylum Seekers****No 3: What to Bring to the AST****No 4: Proving Destitution****No 5: After a Negative Decision at the AST****No 6: Section 9 Withdrawal of Support for Failed Asylum Seeker Families****No 7: Introduction to Community Care****No 8: Introduction to Judicial Review****No 9: The European Convention on Human Rights and The Human Rights Act 1998****No 10: Medical Briefing****No 11: Section 4 Breach of Conditions****No 12: Section 4: New Ways to Apply**

- If the Home Office have stopped your support because they say you have breached your conditions of support you should bring evidence to prove you have not breached your conditions of support. For example if they say you are no longer living at your accommodation if you have been away you should explain where you have been and show you are still living there.
- If you have made a fresh claim for asylum you should bring a copy of this with you. Your solicitor should have sent your fresh claim by recorded delivery so bring a photocopy of the recorded delivery receipt with you. You should also bring the decision from the last time you were refused asylum or had an immigration appeal.
- If you have any medical problems you need to bring letters from your doctors or nurses explaining what your medical problems are. If you very ill you need to ask your doctor to put this in writing. Your doctor has to decide if you are able to travel and put his opinion in this letter. If you have children who are unwell you should bring information about them too.
- If you have decided to return home and have contacted your embassy or the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for help you should bring some proof that you have contacted them. This could be a signed statement of a friend who went with you and can confirm you were there.
- If you have a bank account you should bring with you your most recent statements.

If you have any other information that you think would be useful in the hearing bring this with you too. Read the directions carefully to check you have everything the AST have asked for.

ASAP can only help you on the day of the hearing. If you need advice before the hearing you should speak to your solicitor, your local One Stop Service or local advice agency such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau or Law Centre.

Please remember:

- If ASAP are at the court on the day you have your hearing they may be able to help you so bring all of your evidence with you as advised in this fact sheet.
- ASAP can only help you on the day of your hearing. You should contact a One Stop Shop or other agency for advice before the hearing so that they can call ASAP Advice Line about your case and receive guidance. A selection of advice services and contact numbers are provided with this fact sheet.
- ASAP is unable to give you any immigration advice.
- The Asylum Support Tribunal's address is Christopher Wren House, 113 High Street, Croydon CR0 1QG. This is where you go on the day of your asylum support hearing. If you have any practical questions about your appeal (how to get to the court, what time your appeal is starting, what happens during the hearing etc.), you can call them on 0800 3897913 (freephone) or on 020 8588 2500. Their website is also very useful - visit their website at www.asylum-support-adjudicators.org.uk.

For more information and factsheets, visit www.asaproject.org.uk

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