



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Department of Immigration

PARTNER RESIDENCE APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Department of Immigration Instructions in Respect of a “Partner”



These policy guidelines serve as a framework to facilitate the reunification and continued residence in Bermuda of genuine partners and to safeguard Bermuda's immigration integrity and labour market.

This policy applies to individuals who are the genuine and subsisting partner of:

1. a Bermudian,
2. a Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) Holder, or
3. a Work Permit Holder
(excluding Short-Term Work Permit holders and Periodic Work Permit holders).



Definition of a “Partner” and a “Sponsor”

A partner means a person who has been living with a Bermudian, PRC holder or work permit holder in a relationship akin to a marriage for at least two (2) years prior to the date of application. This is not an absolute guideline and is indicative only. There may be circumstances where the required time has not been met due to partners living in different jurisdictions but are still in a genuine and subsisting relationship. Each case will be determined on the merits.

A sponsor means a Bermudian, PRC holder, or Work Permit holder in a relationship with a non-Bermudian partner akin to a marriage for at least two (2) years prior to the date of application and who will financially support their partner.

The following guidance provides factors that the Department of Immigration will consider when assessing whether a relationship is genuine and subsisting. Sham or forced relationships are not regarded as genuine and subsisting relationships.



Genuine and Subsisting Relationship

An applicant and their partner will be asked by the Department of Immigration to provide evidence that they are in a genuine and subsisting relationship.

The Department of Immigration will consider the objective factors set out below when assessing an application for an entry/re-entry permit for a partner of the Bermudian, PRC holder or Work Permit holder. The outcome of an assessment may prompt additional scrutiny from the Department of Immigration to identify and evidence a non-genuine, non-subsisting relationship or, where indicated below, may result in an outright refusal.

The list of factors to consider, set out below, is **not** to be considered as a checklist. Its purpose is to assist and focus consideration of whether an applicant meets the genuine and subsisting requirement.

Decisions on whether a relationship is genuine and subsisting are to be considered as a whole, based on all the available evidence, on a case-by-case basis taking account of all the circumstances of the application.

Whether the relationship is 'genuine and subsisting' will be considered upon application. The Department of Immigration will be alert and sensitive to the extent to which religious and cultural practices may shape the factors present or absent in a particular case. Evidence of co-habitation or evidence of intent to marry (in accordance with Bermuda law) can be factors associated with a genuine and subsisting relationship; equally, their absence can be too.

The Immigration Board and Minister responsible for immigration have discretion to grant or refuse an application based on an overall assessment, regardless of whether one or more of the factors below is, or is not, present in the case. Consideration of whether a relationship is genuine and subsisting is not a checklist or tick-box exercise.



General Rules and Criteria

Genuine and subsisting relationship:

In assessing whether a relationship is genuine and subsisting, consideration should be given to the following factors which are not exhaustive.

The partners are in a current, long-term relationship and are able to provide satisfactory evidence of this by way of affidavits from both partners explaining the relationship. This must include details of living arrangements and other such pertinent details such as those that are listed below.

- i. The partners are co-habiting and are able to provide satisfactory evidence of this e.g. a joint mortgage/tenancy agreement, a joint bank account and/or joint savings, utility bills in both their names.
- ii. The partners have children together (biological, adopted or step-children) and shared responsibility for them.
- iii. The partners share financial responsibilities (such as information per ii. above).
- iv. The partners have visited the other's home country and family and are able to provide evidence of this.
- v. The partners have made definite plans concerning the practicalities of them living together in Bermuda.

Good Character:

- Applicants must demonstrate good character. This will involve:
 - a clear police certificate from their country of origin and any country of residence for the two (2) years immediately preceding the application, and
 - disclosure of any criminal convictions, civil judgments, or outstanding debts.

The Department of Immigration reserves the right to refuse an application based on significant findings that impact good character.

Financial Means of Support:

- The sponsoring Bermudian, PRC holder, or Work Permit holder must demonstrate sufficient financial means to support their partner. The minimum income for the sponsor of a partner is \$60,00 per annum.
- Applications by a partner (including his/her dependent children) for permission to reside in Bermuda with a Bermudian, PRC holder, or Work Permit holder must include evidence that the following total base remuneration thresholds will be met:

Demographic Profile	Household Base Salary Remuneration
1 dependent household	\$60,000 per annum
2 dependent household	\$100,000 per annum
3 dependent household	\$125,000 per annum
4+ dependent household	\$150,000+ per annum

- Evidence of financial capability will be required (e.g., employment letters, bank statements, etc).

Health Insurance:

- Applicants must have private health insurance coverage for the duration of their intended stay in Bermuda.

Travel Documents

- Applicants must possess a valid Multi Re-Entry Visa (if applicable) which remains valid for at least 45 days after the date of period of residence granted.

No Adverse Immigration History:

- Applicants and sponsors should not have a history of immigration violations in Bermuda or any other jurisdiction.



Residence Duration

If the Immigration Board or Minister responsible for immigration determine that the relationship of the partners is genuine and subsisting, an entry/re-entry permit shall be granted for a period of Five (5) years in respect of a partner of a Bermudian or PRC holder.

Upon expiry of the entry/re-entry permit, the partner of the Bermudian or PRC holder will be required to re-apply for a new entry/re-entry permit in the normal manner.

In the case of a partner of a Work Permit holder, the entry/re-entry permit shall be granted for the duration of the Work Permit holder's work permit. Upon application of a new work permit, the sponsored partner must apply for an entry/re-entry permit in the normal manner.

In all of the cases above, if, after granting the entry/re-entry permit, there is a change in the status of the relationship, the partners must immediately notify the Department of Immigration in writing.

Right to Work

If a partner wishes to work in Bermuda, an application to reside and seek employment should be made as part of the work permit application for the sponsor, or as a separate application, and copies of relevant documents for the sponsor included.

If a partner wishes to work in Bermuda, they will be subjected to the Work Permit Policy 2025



Factors which may be associated with a relationship which is not genuine and subsisting

If a case contains one or more of the factors listed below, this may prompt additional scrutiny of the application but will not necessarily result in a negative decision. The Department of Immigration will continue to look at the circumstances of the case. Even where additional scrutiny has been prompted by any of the following factors, it does not necessarily mean that the relationship is not genuine and subsisting.

The factors which may prompt additional scrutiny of an application include those listed below. Some factors may also, where specifically stated, lead to a refusal of an application without additional scrutiny but again, before deciding, the Department of Immigration must continue to look at the circumstances as a whole:

1. One or both partners makes a public statement that their relationship is a sham. An application can be refused based on such a public statement alone.
2. One or both partners makes a public statement (not in confidence) that they have been forced into a relationship. An application can be refused based on such a public statement alone.
3. There is evidence from a reliable third party (e.g. police, social services, registration service) which indicates that the relationship is or may be a sham or forced relationship.
4. One or both partners does not appear to have the capacity to consent to the relationship, e.g. owing to learning difficulties, and independent evidence, e.g. from a social services assessment.

5. Failure by one or both partners to attend an interview, without reasonable explanation, where required to do so to discuss the application or their welfare, or seeking to undermine the ability of the Department of Immigration to arrange an interview, e.g. by unreasonable delaying tactics by the partners or a third party.
6. The partners are unable to provide accurate personal details about each other (e.g. name, age, nationality, employment, parent's names and place of residence), provide inconsistent evidence, or do not have a shared understanding of the core facts of their relationship, e.g. how and where they met for the first time.
7. There is evidence of money having been exchanged for the relationship to be contracted.
8. There is a lack of appropriate contribution to the responsibilities of the relationship, e.g. a lack of shared financial or other domestic responsibilities.
9. Co-habitation is not maintained (except where one party is working or studying away from home) or there is no evidence that they have ever co-habited since the commencement of the relationship.
10. One partner is a qualified medical practitioner or professional, or has worked as a nurse or caregiver, and the other partner has a mental or physical impairment which currently requires medical assistance or personal care in their own accommodation.
11. The partner has previously sponsored another partner to come to or remain in Bermuda.
12. The partner has previously been sponsored as a partner to come to or remain in Bermuda (i.e. the partner has obtained settlement on this basis) and that relationship ended shortly after the partner obtained settlement. This excludes circumstances where the partner is a bereaved partner, or where the partner obtained settlement based on domestic violence perpetrated by their former partner.
13. The history of one or both partners contains evidence of a previous sham or forced relationship, or of unlawful residence in Bermuda or elsewhere.
14. One or both partners have applied for leave to enter or remain in Bermuda in another category and been refused.



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