



## Your right to appeal

If your application is rejected, or if you are granted a status of subsidiary protection and you believe that you should have been recognised as having refugee status, or if your international protection status is withdrawn, you have the right to submit an appeal to the Appeals Authority.

If you receive a rejection decision in the first instance, you should appeal. To register an appeal, find a lawyer, and go to the Regional Asylum Office which delivered the decision to you and fill out an appeal form.

The deadlines vary depending upon the procedure followed for your particular claim. Please check the deadlines with the authority that issued your rejection for international protection.

Since the deadlines can be extremely short, especially on the Islands, unless you find a lawyer to assist you with it immediately, it is safer to register your own appeal as soon as possible after you receive the notification and then urgently seek an experienced asylum lawyer to assist you with it.

You should include at least some relevant reasons for your appeal on the form, if you decide to register your appeal by yourself before seeking a lawyer's assistance with it.

The grounds of your appeal may be that there are serious reasons to doubt the thoroughness or impartiality of your interview at first instance, or if you had difficulties with the interpreter provided, or if you realised later that the statement recorded on your behalf was not complete, or if you have significant fresh evidence or any new documents to add to your claim and support your application.

Your appeal will be examined by one of the Appeals Authority committees. You should be notified about the date that your appeal will be examined on the same day you register the appeal.

Your appeal will be examined by an Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee usually examines appeals based on the evidence in your file and does not call you for an interview. However, you will be notified about the date that your appeal will be examined, and about when you can submit, in case you wish so, any additional evidence that the Appeals Committee should take into account.

During the examination of your appeal, you can explicitly withdraw it at any time if you wish. It is not recommended to do this unless you have first consulted an asylum lawyer and you have considered all the implications and consequences for you thoroughly.

You can also be considered to have implicitly withdrawn your application if you do not appear for interviews when called without giving any plausible reason why you could not attend, and other similar conditions. All the reasons why you can be considered to have implicitly withdrawn your application and the legal risks of illegal onward movements will be explained in another section.

The Appeals Committee will decide to either grant you refugee status, subsidiary protection status, or reject your appeal.

In case your appeal is rejected, or in case the decision grants you a status of subsidiary protection and you believe that you are entitled to a refugee status, you can appeal to the Administrative Court for an annulment of the previous administrative decisions. The annulment application does not have an automatic suspensive effect, meaning that your removal from the country is possible. If you are still rejected by the Administrative Court, in some circumstances it may be possible to appeal to the Council of State in Greece, and in some circumstances, you may be further appeal to the European courts.

You have the right to appoint a lawyer to assist and represent you at any stage of the procedure **before your appeal, at your own expense.**

If you receive a negative decision on your application in the first instance, you have the right to receive information about the reasons for the decision and about how to appeal against it. This information may be provided by the authorities or by legal aid NGOs.

**If you need to make an appeal,** you have the right to receive **free legal assistance** from a lawyer, if you request it.

You and your lawyer have the right to access information in your file about the factual and legal basis on which a decision is taken or will be taken.

You can also have another counsellor assist you with your application and accompany you into your interview(s), if you wish, who may be a jurist, medical doctor, psychologist or social worker.