****FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE****

You have the right to receive free legal assistance.The assistance consists in:

* lodging an appeal against a decision you are not satisfied with;
* acting as your representative in the appeal procedure.

You have the right to receive free legal assistance if you have no lawyer or legal advisor. If the decision consists in revoking your international protection, you must also meet the income criterion, as laid down in the Act on Social Assistance, i.e., your income cannot exceed 100% of the income criteria as defined in Article 8 of the Act of 12 March 2004 on Social Assistance.

You must provide a written power of attorney in order to obtain free legal assistance. The assistance is granted by a lawyer, a legal advisor or a person who is not a lawyer or a legal advisor but remains employed at a Non-Governmental Organisations having the right to provide free legal assistance.

Additional information, **including the list of organisations, lawyers and legal advisers** who provide free legal advice can be found here: <https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/bezplatna-pomoc-prawna>

**ASSISTANCE IN VOLUNTARY RETURN**

**Who has the right to the assistance**

If you wish to voluntarily return to your country of origin or any other country where you have the right of entry, you can use the assistance of Polish authorities. You must file an application for assistance in voluntary return if your administrative case for granting international protection has ended with a decision:

* on discontinuance of proceedings or
* on the refusal to grant refugee status and the refusal to grant subsidiary protection or
* on considering the application as inadmissible,

as well as in cases where your application for granting international protection was left unprocessed for formal reasons.

**What does the assistance consist in**

The assistance in voluntary return includes covering:

* travel costs;
* administrative fees related to acquiring the travel document along with the necessary visas and approvals;
* costs of food before and during the travel (unless they are covered by the Head of the Office under social assistance);
* costs of accommodation before the travels (unless they are covered by the Head of the Office under social assistance);
* costs of medical care (unless they are covered by the Head of the Office under social assistance);
* the costs of organising voluntary care by the entity whose statutory obligations includes the organisation of voluntary returns;
* other costs related to ensuring safe and humanitarian return.

You can use the assistance in voluntary return financed in such manner once every 2 years. The victims of human trafficking and unaccompanied minors may use such assistance more often.

**How to apply for assistance**

Voluntary returns are organized by the **Commander in Chief of the Polish Border Guard**. If you have received a decision on:

* discontinuance of proceedings or
* refusal to grant refugee status and the refusal to grant subsidiary protection

and you benefit from social assistance and medical care provided by the Head of the Office for Foreigners, you should file the application on granting assistance voluntary return **with the Head of the Office of Foreigners**. Send the signed application to the address of the Department for Social Assistance of the Office for Foreigners (through mail or the office’s e-PUAP box) or file it personally at the reception center or at the Office’s Registry at ul. Taborowa 33 in Warsaw on its opening hours.

In other cases, the application for granting assistance in voluntary return should be filed with the commander of the Border Guard Unit or the commander of the Border Guard post competent for the place of your residence.

**Time limits for filing the application**

The application must be filed within:

* **5 days** following the day on which the **decision on the discontinuance of proceedings** became final;
* **5 days** following the day after receiving the **notification that the application for granting international protection was left unprocessed**;
* **7 days** before the lapse of the 30 day time limit for voluntary return if you have received **the decision on the refusal to grant refugee status and the refusal to grant subsidiary protection or finding the application inadmissible**.

**Remember!** If you fail to submit the application within the time limit, the Commander in Chief of the Polish Border Guard shall not process it.