What to verify before applying for a child visa

Understanding the child visa application process

Applying for a visa for a child to join a parent in the UK involves several requirements that must be met carefully. The process differs depending on whether the child is applying from outside the UK or is already in the country. A thorough check of the eligibility criteria can save time and reduce the risk of refusal. Below is a practical list of points to consider before submitting an application.

Check that the parent has the right immigration status

The child's parent must hold a valid UK visa or settled status. If the parent is a British citizen or has indefinite leave to remain, the child may be eligible to apply for entry clearance. If the parent is in the UK on a work visa or a family visa, the child's application must align with that route. It is essential to confirm that the parent's immigration status allows the child to join them. A mismatch here can lead to a refusal.

Confirm the financial requirement is met

Most child visa applications require the parent to show they can support the child without relying on public funds. The financial threshold depends on the parent's income, savings, or a combination of both. For a sole parent applying with a child, the minimum income requirement typically applies. If the parent is already in the UK with a partner, the combined income may be considered. Gather payslips, bank statements, and employment letters well in advance. The Home Office checks that the funds are genuine and available.

Provide sufficient relationship evidence

The Home Office needs to see that the child is the biological or adopted child of the parent in the UK. Birth certificates, DNA test results, or adoption documents can serve as proof. If the child lives with the other parent or a guardian, a letter of consent from that person is required. The consent letter should confirm that the child is allowed to live permanently in the UK. This step is often overlooked, causing delays.

View the location on Google Maps

Check accommodation arrangements

The parent must show that there is adequate accommodation for the child in the UK. This does not mean the parent must own a home, but the property should not be overcrowded. A tenancy agreement, mortgage statement, or a letter from the landlord can demonstrate suitable

housing. If the parent lives in shared accommodation, a separate room for the child may be necessary. The Home Office may ask for a property inspection report in some cases.

Adamir Immigration Solicitors London is also on Twitter.

English language requirements

Children under 18 are generally exempt from the English language requirement, but the parent may need to demonstrate English proficiency if applying under certain routes. For example, a parent applying as a partner alongside the child must meet the A1 level in English. Check the specific requirements for the visa category. Failing to meet the language condition for the parent can affect the whole application.

Maintenance funds for the child

Even if the parent meets the income threshold, they may still need to show maintenance funds if the child is applying as a dependant of a work visa holder. The amount varies by visa type and the location of the UK address. For example, a dependant of a skilled worker visa holder in London may need higher funds. The funds must be held in the parent's account for at least 28 consecutive days before the application date. Keep the bank statements ready.



Prepare the child's immigration history

If the child has previously been in the UK or has made any immigration applications, those records should be included. Any overstaying or breach of conditions can complicate the application. The Home Office checks the child's travel history and any previous refusals. Full disclosure of any past issues is better than omitting them.

Sponsor documents and letters

The parent in the UK acts as the sponsor for the child. The sponsor must provide a letter confirming their relationship to the child and their willingness to take responsibility for the child's care. The letter should also confirm that the child will be accommodated and maintained without recourse to public funds. A poorly written sponsor letter can weaken the application.

Check the application form carefully

The online form for a child visa application asks detailed questions about the child's background, the parent's circumstances, and the purpose of the stay. Mistakes in dates, names, or passport numbers can cause delays. Double-check every answer before submitting. Some applicants find it helpful to have a legal professional review the form before payment.

Consider the entry clearance process

If the child is applying from outside the UK, entry clearance is required. The application is made online, and the child may need to attend a visa application centre for biometrics. Processing times vary by country, so plan ahead. The child's passport will be kept during processing. Ensure that the child has no travel plans during that period.

For those navigating these requirements, professional guidance can clarify the steps. Adamir Immigration Solicitors London assists with family visa and child visa applications, helping applicants understand the documentation and eligibility rules. Their team can review the case and advise on the best approach.

Medical and tuberculosis test requirements

Children from certain countries must undergo a tuberculosis test as part of the visa application. The test must be done at an approved clinic, and the certificate is valid for six months. If the child has a medical condition that requires ongoing treatment in the UK, the parent must show that they can pay for that treatment without using the NHS. A medical report from a doctor may be needed.

Check if the child needs a separate visa category

If the child is over 18 and still dependent on the parent, a different visa category may apply. Adult dependant relatives have stricter rules, including a care needs test. For children under 18, the standard child visa route is appropriate. Ensure the correct category is selected on the form.

Prepare for the interview (if required)

In some cases, the Home Office may call the child or parent for an interview. This is more common if there are doubts about the relationship or the child's identity. The interview is usually brief and focuses on basic facts about the family. Honesty and consistency are key. If the child is too young, the parent may be interviewed instead.



Keep copies of everything

Make photocopies or digital scans of all documents submitted. The Home Office may request additional evidence after the application is filed. Having a complete set of copies makes it easier to respond quickly. Also, keep a record of the application reference number and any correspondence with the Home Office.

For any case that involves complex facts or previous refusals, consulting an immigration specialist is wise. **Adamir Immigration Solicitors London** provides advice on family and child visa matters, from initial eligibility checks to supporting evidence preparation. Their office can clarify the requirements for your situation.

If you are applying for a child visa, take time to review each point above. A well-prepared application stands a better chance of approval. For professional assistance, you can contact Adamir Immigration Solicitors London at Unit-1, 5 Norman Rd, London N15 4ND, UK, or call +44 20 3302 0074.