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# Act (1994:137) on the reception of asylum seekers etc.

**SFS no . :** 1994:137

**Ministry/authority :** Ministry of Justice L7

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**Amendment register :** [SFSR \(Government Office\)](#) >

**Source :** [Full text \(Government Office\)](#) >

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## General provisions

**Section 1** /Expires U:2025-07-01/ This Act provides provisions on employment for and assistance to aliens who

1. have applied for a residence permit in Sweden as a refugee in accordance with Chapter 4, Section 1 or as a person in need of alternative protection in accordance with Chapter 4, Section 2 of the Aliens Act (2005:716) or corresponding older provisions (asylum seekers),
2. have applied for or been granted a residence permit with temporary protection or a residence permit after temporary protection on the basis of the provisions of Chapter 21, Section 2, 3, 4 or 6 of the Aliens Act and who are not registered in the population register in this country, or
3. have applied for a residence permit in Sweden and for special reasons have been granted the right to reside here while the application is being examined.

Those covered by this Act are not entitled to assistance under Chapter 4, Section 1 of the Social Services Act (2001:453) for benefits of a similar nature. There is also no entitlement to assistance for housing costs. *Act (2022:1006)*.

**Section 1** /Enters into force 1:2025-07-01/ This Act contains provisions on employment for and assistance to foreigners who

1. have applied for a residence permit in Sweden as a refugee in accordance with Chapter 4, Section 1 or as a person in need of alternative protection in accordance with Chapter 4, Section 2 of the Aliens Act (2005:716) or corresponding older provisions (asylum seekers),
2. have applied for or been granted a residence permit with temporary protection or a residence permit after temporary protection on the basis of the provisions of Chapter 21, Section 2, 3, 4 or 6 of the Aliens Act and who are not registered in the population register in this country, or
3. have applied for a residence permit in Sweden and for special reasons have been granted the right to reside here while the application is being examined.

Chapter 10, Section 2 of the Social Services Act (2025:400) contains provisions that mean that those covered by this Act in certain cases are not entitled to interventions or financial assistance under that Act. *Act (2025:417)*.

**Section 1 a** Children under the age of 18 who do not have a residence permit and who do not live in asylum accommodation are not covered by this Act if they live with a guardian who has a residence permit.

Foreigners who are citizens of a Member State of the European Union are covered by this Act only if there are exceptional reasons for doing so.

Foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1, who have been granted a temporary residence permit and whose right to assistance under this Act has expired are not covered by the Act if they apply for a continued permit on the same grounds or apply for a new permit based on any provision in the Act (2017:353) on Residence Permits for Students at Upper Secondary Level and the application has been received by the Migration Board before the previous permit has expired.

An alien residing here on the basis of a temporary residence permit pursuant to Chapter 5, Section 15 or Section 15 b of the Aliens Act (2005:716) is not covered by this Act. The

same applies to an alien for whom an application for such a permit is under consideration. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 1 b** Sections 2 and 3 contain special provisions on the reception of children under the age of 18 who, upon arrival in Sweden, are separated from both their parents or from another adult person who may be considered to have taken the parents' place, or who, after arrival, are without such a representative (unaccompanied children). The provisions are applicable only as long as the child is to be considered unaccompanied. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 1c** A transfer decision pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast) (Dublin Regulation) shall be considered a decision on refusal of entry or expulsion for the purposes of this Act. *Act (2017:578)*.

**Section 2** The Swedish Migration Board shall have primary responsibility for the reception of aliens referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2, and for this purpose shall operate asylum accommodation. The Swedish Migration Board may assign others to operate asylum accommodation.

A municipality may arrange accommodation for unaccompanied children covered by Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2. What is said about asylum accommodation in Sections 14 and 15 shall also apply to such accommodation.

A municipality may also arrange accommodation for other foreigners referred to in section 1, first paragraph, 2. What is said about asylum accommodation in this Act shall also apply to such accommodation. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 3** */Expires on 1 July 2025/* Foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph 1 shall be allocated a place in asylum accommodation by the Swedish Migration Board. For foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph 2, the Swedish Migration Board shall offer a place in asylum accommodation or designate a municipality to arrange the accommodation.

The first paragraph does not apply to unaccompanied children referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2. For these children, the Swedish Migration Board shall instead designate a municipality to arrange accommodation. When the Swedish Migration Board has designated a municipality, it shall be deemed that the child is residing in that municipality within the meaning of Chapter 2 a, Section 1 of the Social Services Act (2001:453).

A municipality that has been assigned to receive an unaccompanied child may place the child in accommodation in another municipality only if

1. the municipalities have entered into an agreement on the placement,
2. the placement is carried out with the support of the Act (1990:52) with special provisions on the care of young people or with the support of the Social Services Act in the case of children with corresponding care needs, or
3. there are exceptional reasons with regard to the child's care needs. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 3** /Enters into force I:2025-07-01/ Foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph 1 shall be allocated a place in an asylum accommodation by the Migration Board. For foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph 2, the Migration Board shall offer a place in an asylum accommodation or designate a municipality to arrange the accommodation.

The first paragraph does not apply to unaccompanied children referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2. For these children, the Swedish Migration Board shall instead designate a municipality to arrange accommodation. When the Swedish Migration Board has designated a municipality, it shall be deemed that the child is residing in that municipality within the meaning of Chapter 29, Section 4 of the Social Services Act (2025:400).

A municipality that has been assigned to receive an unaccompanied child may place the child in accommodation in another municipality only if

1. the municipalities have entered into an agreement on the placement,
2. the placement is carried out with the support of the Act (1990:52) with special provisions on the care of young people or with the support of the Social Services Act in the case of children with corresponding care needs, or
3. there are exceptional reasons with regard to the child's care needs. *Act (2025:417)*.

**Section 3** a An alien referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2 shall be registered at an asylum accommodation facility. The Swedish Migration Board is then responsible

for providing assistance in accordance with this Act.

For foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, point 3, the assistance shall be provided by the social welfare committee in the municipality where the foreigner resides.

A municipality shall provide assistance under this Act to foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 2, if they reside in the municipality and if the assistance is needed until the Swedish Migration Board takes over responsibility for providing assistance. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 3 b** When distributing instructions according to Section 3, first paragraph, between municipalities, consideration shall be given to the municipality's labour market conditions, population size, total reception of newly arrived and unaccompanied children and the number of asylum seekers residing in the municipality. *Act (2022:1006)*.

## Social introduction

**Section 3 c** An alien referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2, shall participate in social introduction if he or she has reached the age of 16. However, this does not apply if the alien, due to his or her personal circumstances, has special reasons not to participate.

The social introduction shall be arranged by the Swedish Migration Board. *Act (2025:57)*.

## Employment

**Section 4** The Swedish Migration Board may provide employment to those referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2 by giving them the opportunity to participate in Swedish language instruction, in the management of asylum accommodation and in other activities that contribute to making their stay meaningful. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 5** Foreigners who participate in activities referred to in Section 4 shall not be considered employees.

However, they shall be treated as employees when applying Chapter 2, Sections 1-9, Chapter 3, Sections 1-4 and 6-13, Chapter 4, Sections 1-4 and 8-10, Chapter 5, Sections 1-3 and Chapters 7-9 of the Work Environment Act (1977:1160).

In this regard, what is stated in the Work Environment Act regarding employer shall apply to the person responsible for the activity in which the foreigner participates. *Act (2008:941)*.

**Section 6** If foreigners are to participate in activities referred to in Section 4 and which are run by someone other than the Swedish Migration Board, a written agreement on the terms and conditions of the activity shall be concluded between the Board and the person running the activity. The Swedish Migration Board may instruct others to conclude such agreements. *Act (2000:296)*.

**Section 7** If an agreement between the person providing employment and a foreigner conflicts with an agreement pursuant to Section 6, the agreement is invalid.

### Right to assistance

**Section 8** Assistance pursuant to Sections 13-19 is provided to foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2, provided that they are registered at an asylum accommodation facility.

Foreigners living in asylum accommodation are entitled to assistance even after they have been granted a residence permit, if they have not been assigned or been able to use an assigned place in a municipality.

Foreigners who do not live in asylum accommodation and who are entitled to assistance under this Act are entitled to assistance even after they have been granted a residence permit, for one month from the date of the decision on the residence permit.

Daily allowance and special allowance may not be paid for the time when a foreigner participates in a labor market policy program that may give the right to establishment allowance. *Law (2025:57)*.

**Section 8** a An alien referred to in Section 1, first paragraph 1 is entitled to daily allowance and special allowance according to Sections 17 and 18 respectively only on

condition that the alien lives exclusively in the asylum accommodation where he or she has been allocated a place according to Section 3, first paragraph.

The first paragraph does not apply to unaccompanied children. It also does not apply to a foreigner who

1. lives with a member of the immediate family who is resident in Sweden, or
2. has special reasons not to live in asylum accommodation due to his or her personal circumstances. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 9** Assistance pursuant to Sections 17-19 is provided to aliens referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 3. However, assistance is not provided if the application for a residence permit only concerns an extension of a previous permit on otherwise unchanged conditions.

**Section 10** Daily allowance pursuant to Section 17 may be reduced for a foreigner who has reached the age of 18 if he or she

1. refuses to participate in activities referred to in Section 4 without valid reason,
2. hinders the investigation in the residence permit case by not cooperating in clarifying his or her identity, or
3. hinders the investigation in the residence permit case by staying away.

However, the reduction pursuant to the first paragraph may not apply to the part of the compensation intended to cover expenses for the foreigner's own food.

The daily allowance may be reduced completely for foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 or 2 if the foreigner, even after the reduction has been made in accordance with the first paragraph

- , 1. refuses to participate in activities referred to in Section 4 without valid reason,
2. hinders the investigation into the residence permit case by not cooperating in clarifying his or her identity, or
3. hinders the investigation into the residence permit case by staying away.

Reductions according to the third paragraph may only be made if the foreigner is offered a place in asylum accommodation and free meals are included in the accommodation offered.

The provisions on the reduction of daily allowance also apply in cases where a foreigner, without valid reason, refuses to participate in a measure that is necessary for a decision

on refusal of entry or expulsion to be enforced. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 10 a** Has been repealed by *law (2025:57)*.

**Section 11** The right to assistance ceases

1. when a residence permit is granted, except in cases referred to in Section 1, first paragraph 2, and Section 8, second and third paragraphs, or
2. when the alien leaves the country.

For an adult foreigner who does not live with a child under 18 years of age or a child under 18 years of age for whom he or she may be considered to have taken the place of the parents, the right to assistance also ceases, unless it is manifestly unreasonable,

1. when the foreigner's deadline for voluntary departure pursuant to Chapter 8, Section 21, first paragraph, of the Aliens Act (2005:716) expires, or
2. when the decision on refusal of entry or expulsion becomes final, if the decision does not contain any deadline for voluntary departure.

However, the right to assistance does not cease when the time limit specified in the second paragraph 1 expires if the decision on refusal of entry or expulsion cannot then be enforced as a result of the Swedish Migration Board or a court having decided on an inhibition or having granted a new examination in accordance with Chapter 12, Section 19 of the Aliens Act. The right to assistance then ceases, unless it is manifestly unreasonable, instead one week after the decision on refusal of entry or expulsion becomes enforceable again. *Act (2016:381)*.

**Section 11 a** If the right to assistance has ceased pursuant to Section 11, second or third paragraph, and the Swedish Migration Board or a court subsequently decides to suspend the enforcement case or grants a new review pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 19 of the Aliens Act (2005:716), the alien shall, after notification to the Swedish Migration Board, once again have the right to assistance pursuant to this Act. If the decision on refusal of entry or expulsion becomes enforceable again, the right to assistance shall cease, unless it is manifestly unreasonable, one week after that point in time. *Act (2016:381)*.

**Section 12** Anyone who refrains from doing so so that a decision on refusal of entry or expulsion cannot be enforced is not entitled to assistance.

**Section 12 a** has been designated Section 19 b by *law (2025:57)*.



## Benefits

**Section 13** Assistance under this Act is provided in the form of accommodation, daily allowance and special allowance. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 14** Foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2 have the right to accommodation in an asylum accommodation. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 15** Anyone who has income from gainful employment or who has other income or own assets and who has accommodation in an asylum accommodation facility shall pay a reasonable amount as compensation to the Swedish Migration Board. When board is included in the accommodation in an asylum accommodation facility, reasonable compensation shall also be paid for this.

*Law (2025:57)*.

**Section 16** Has been repealed by *law (2025:57)*.

**Section 17** A foreigner who is covered by this Act and who lacks his own resources is entitled to assistance for his daily living (daily allowance).

Section 10 states in which cases daily allowance may be reduced.

*Law (2004:408)*.

**Section 18** If there is another urgent need, the foreigner is entitled to special assistance for this (special grant).

**Section 19** has been designated Section 23 c by *law (2025:57)*.

## Notification of residential address

**Section 19** a An alien referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 1 and 2, who arranges accommodation on his own shall keep the Swedish Migration Board informed of his residential address.

Chapter 13, Section 19 of the Aliens Act (2005:716) contains provisions stating that an application for a residence permit may be considered withdrawn if an asylum seeker does not fulfill his or her obligation according to the first paragraph. *Act (2025:57)*.

## Coercive measures

**Section 19 b** If the Swedish Migration Board requests it, the Police Authority shall provide the assistance needed to enforce a decision under this Act that requires an alien to leave his place at an asylum accommodation facility.

Assistance pursuant to the first paragraph may only be requested if

1. due to special circumstances it may be feared that the measure cannot be carried out without recourse to the special powers of a police officer pursuant to Section 10 or 10 a of the Police Act (1984:387), or
2. there are otherwise exceptional reasons. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 19 c** The Swedish Migration Board may examine the living space and closed storage facilities that an alien has at the disposal of an asylum accommodation facility, if it can be suspected that the alien does not live exclusively at the asylum accommodation facility and the examination is needed to assess whether the alien meets the conditions for daily allowance and special allowance in Section 8 a, first paragraph.

The investigation shall be conducted in the presence of a witness. All due consideration shall be given to the circumstances. *Act (2025:57)*.

Assistance pursuant to the first paragraph may only be requested if

1. due to special circumstances it may be feared that the measure cannot be carried out without recourse to the special powers of a police officer pursuant to Section 10 or 10 a of the Police Act (1984:387), or
2. there are otherwise exceptional reasons.

*Act (2025:57)*.

## Right to bring legal action

**Section 20** Anyone who has reached the age of 16 has the right to conduct their own proceedings in cases or matters under this Act.

## Service

**Section 21** In cases or matters under this Act, service may not be effected in accordance with sections 34-38 and 47-51 of the Service Act (2010:1932). In cases before a general administrative court, service may, however, be effected in accordance with section 48, first paragraph 1 of the same Act, if the alien has left the country. *Act (2010:1962)*.

## Appeal of decisions

**Section 22** The Migration Board's or the Social Welfare Board's decision under this Act may be appealed to a general administrative court. However, the Migration Board's decision on the assignment of unaccompanied children or the assignment of a municipality for accommodation for foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 2, may not be appealed. The Migration Board's decision on the allocation of or offer of accommodation under Section 3, first paragraph, may not be appealed either.

The Migration Board's decision may be appealed to the administrative court within whose jurisdiction the foreigner was residing when the decision was made.

Decisions regarding assistance under this Act shall apply immediately. A decision to conduct an investigation under Section 19 c shall also apply immediately.

Leave to appeal is required when appealing to the Court of Appeal.

*Law (2025:57).*

## Government compensation

**Section 23** A municipality that has provided assistance under this Act is entitled to compensation from the state for the assistance.

## Right to issue regulations

**Section 23 a** The Government may, in the case of aliens referred to in Section 1, first paragraph, 2, who are not unaccompanied children, issue regulations on

1. the number of aliens for whom there is a need to assign a municipality for accommodation during a certain period,
2. the priority given to instructions,
3. the distribution of instructions between municipalities,
4. which criteria, in addition to those specified in Section 3 b, may be taken into account when assigning instructions, and
5. within what period a municipality must arrange accommodation.

*Act (2022:1006).*

**Section 23 b** The Government or the authority designated by the Government may issue regulations on the scope of such social introduction as referred to in Section 3 c.

*Act (2025:57).*

**Section 23 c** The Government or the authority designated by the Government may, with the support of Chapter 8, Section 7 of the Instrument of Government, issue regulations on the basis for calculating the amounts referred to in Sections 15, 17 and 18, as well as more detailed regulations on the cases in which special grants may be granted. *Act (2025:57)*.

**Section 23 d** The Government or the authority designated by the Government may, on the basis of Chapter 8, Section 7 of the Instrument of Government, issue regulations on exemptions from Section 8 a, first paragraph, if the influx of foreigners referred to in Section 1, first paragraph 1 or 2 has been or can be expected to be particularly extensive and it is deemed necessary in order to meet the need for places in asylum accommodation. *Act (2025:57)*.

### Professional secrecy

**Section 24** Anyone who is or has been active in accommodation activities run by an individual on behalf of the Swedish Migration Board in accordance with Section 2 may not disclose without authorization what he or she has learned about the individual's personal circumstances. *Law (2025:57)*.

War and threat of war etc.

**Section 25** The Government may issue special regulations that deviate from this Act if Sweden is at war or at risk of war or if there are such extraordinary circumstances that are caused by war outside Sweden's borders or by Sweden having been at war or at risk of war. *Act (1994:1736)*.

### Transitional provisions

1994:137

This Act shall enter into force on 1 July 1994, when the Act (1988:153) on assistance to asylum seekers etc. shall cease to apply. However, the repealed Act shall apply to decisions made before 1 July 1994. The Government, or the authority designated by the Government, may prescribe that assistance may be provided in the form of free housing to those who, at the time of entry into force, had such assistance under the repealed Act.

1995:103

This Act enters into force on 1 April 1995. Decisions issued before entry into force are appealed in accordance with older provisions.

1995:1728

This Act enters into force on 1 May 1996 but does not apply in cases where the first decision in the matter was made before that date.

2004:408

1. This Act enters into force on 1 July 2004.
2. The new provisions in Section 10, first paragraph 2 and third paragraph 2 shall apply only to such failure to cooperate in clarifying one's identity that has occurred after the Act entered into force.

2004:1377

This Act enters into force on 1 March 2005. However, older regulations still apply to applications for housing allowance made before entry into force and relating to the period before entry into force.

2010:1962

1. This Act enters into force on 1 April 2011.
2. Older provisions apply if a decision on service pursuant to sections 15-17 of the Service Act (1970:428) has been made before 1 April 2011 or if a document has been sent or submitted before this date.

2017:586

1. This Act enters into force on 1 January 2018.
2. Older regulations still apply to compensation granted under the repealed Act (2010:197) on establishment measures for certain newly arrived immigrants.

2018:346

1. This Act enters into force on 1 June 2018.
2. Older regulations still apply to the placement of unaccompanied children in a municipality other than the municipality designated by the Swedish Migration Board, if the placement took place before the entry into force.

2025:57

1. This Act enters into force on 1 March 2025.
2. The provisions of Section 8 a shall apply to aliens who are registered at a reception centre upon entry into force from 1 September 2025.
3. The repealed provisions of Section 10 a shall apply to aliens referred to in Section 2 until 31 August 2025.

## Swedish Constitution

The Swedish Code of Statutes (SFS) contains current laws and regulations. If a statute is amended, the old text is replaced with the new one.



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the Riksdag is the people's primary representative.**

## Contact

### Gear

Gear

**08-786 40 00**

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## Factual questions about the Riksdag and the EU

Parliamentary information

**020-349 000**

[parliamentary information@riksdagen.se](mailto:parliamentary%20information@riksdagen.se)

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Contact members

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Questions about the Riksdag Administration's diary

[registrar.riksdagsforvaltningen@riksdagen.se](mailto:registrar.riksdagsforvaltningen@riksdagen.se)

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