

Legal assistance and representation - Cyprus

Overview

Relevant EU legislation

Cyprus is bound by the recast Asylum Procedures Directive, the recast Reception Conditions Directive and the Dublin III Regulation and has transposed their provisions through the Refugees Law 2000 (6(I)/2000) | [Ο περί Προσφύγων Νόμος του 2000 \(6\(I\)/2000\)](#) and the Aliens and Immigration Law (CHAP.105) | [Ο περί Αλλοδαπών και Μεταναστεύσεως Νόμος \(ΚΕΦ.105\)](#).

National legislation

The Refugees Law 2000 (6(I)/2000) | [Ο περί Προσφύγων Νόμος του 2000 \(6\(I\)/2000\)](#)

[The Legal Aid Law of 2002 \(165\(I\)/2002\)](#)

- Article 6B - Legal assistance to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection

Competent authority and stakeholders

Area	National authority/stakeholder
Provision of legal and procedural information on the applicant's rights and obligations	Legal professionals with a law degree
Legal assistance at first instance determination	Legal professionals with a law degree
Legal counselling provided by civil society organisations or other organisations	Legal professionals with a law degree

Area	National authority/stakeholder
Legal assistance at second instance determination	Professionals with a valid license to practice law
Legal assistance for other related procedures	Legal professionals with a law degree can provide legal assistance and advice. For representation before national courts, a valid license to practice law is needed.

Access to legal assistance and representation

Provision of information on legal assistance and representation

Article 9A (1) of the [Refugee Law](#) provides that the Asylum Service shall inform the applicant of his/her rights and obligations, as well as of the organisations or groups of persons who provide legal support, within a period not exceeding 15 days from the submission of the application. Article 11 (8) b) provides for the right of the applicant to call a lawyer or legal advisor to assist him throughout the entire procedure, and paragraph (9) enshrines the right of the applicant to be assisted by a private lawyer at his own expense (*“The applicant is entitled to consult, at his own expense and in a substantive manner, a lawyer or legal advisor, on matters relating to his application, at all stages of the application examination procedure, even after a negative decision by the Head.”*)

Information leaflets (concerning rights and obligations of asylum seekers, such as access to health, education etc.) are provided to applicants in a language that (s)he understands or expected to understand. These information leaflets also define those organisations or other actors who provide special legal support.

Access to premises

According to Article 7 (3) of the [Refugees Law 2000](#) an applicant may contact the Representative of the UNHCR or any other organisation that provides legal advice to applicants in accordance with Cypriot law.

Article 9F (11a) of the [Refugees Law 2000](#) provides the right of the detainee to communicate with UNHCR, to be visited by its representative in conditions that respect the right to private life. Paragraph b) provides for the same right to be in contact and visited by representatives of organisations working on behalf of UNHCR under an agreement with the national authorities.

For legal advisers, lawyers or NGOs recognised by law or by the authorities, the same rule applies – see Article 9F (12a). However, point b) provides for the possibility for the police of the competent authority to restrict such access if objectively necessary for the security, public order or administrative management of the detention facility, provided that such access is not excessively restricted or rendered impossible.

Article 18bis (3) of the [Refugees Law 2000](#) stipulates that the lawyer or the legal advisor who provides assistance or representation to the applicant, has the right to access closed areas (transit zones and detention centers) in order to communicate with the applicant.

Requirements: Means test and merits test

A means test is applied for:

Access to legal and procedural information, see Article 18 (7C),(d and e) of the [Refugee Law](#).

A request for provision of free legal and procedural information can be rejected if the Head of the Asylum Service documents that the applicant has sufficient resources. Also, the Head of the Asylum Service can request the beneficiary of free legal and procedural information to refund partly or entirely the amount paid by the state, if and from the moment when his financial situation has significantly changed/improved or if the decision to provide free legal and procedural information was taken on the basis of false information provided by the applicant. In the event of refusal or omission of the applicant to satisfy the Head's requirement, the latter may take judicial measures with a view to collecting the relevant amount as a civil debt owed to the Republic.

Access to legal aid in appeals.

According to Article 6B (12) of the [Legal Aid Act](#), the Court that issued the relevant certificate may order an applicant for international protection, who was granted free legal aid pursuant to the provisions of subsections (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7), to refund all or part of the amount paid to him for legal aid purposes, if and from the moment his financial situation has significantly improved.

A merits test is applied for access to legal aid in appeals.

Regarding the likelihood of success of an appeal, according to the existing national procedures for legal aid regarding the applicants of international protection, the applicant for legal aid does not need to prove likelihood of a successful outcome of the application. The fulfilment of this requirement has been interpreted by case-law, so that the court should be satisfied through the administrative files of the court that this possibility exists, without requiring the applicant of legal aid

to prove anything before submitting the application.

Modalities to submit a request for legal aid

The modalities to submit an application for legal aid in appeals are provided under Article 7 of the [Legal Aid Act](#).

Article 7D of the Legal Aid Law provides that:

The Registrar of the Administrative Court is the competent authority for receiving applications from -

(a) applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, for the provision of free legal assistance in accordance with the provisions of article 6B:

It is understood that the competent authority for receiving applications for the provision of free legal aid in accordance with paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of article 6B is the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Pursuant to Article 10 of the Legal Aid Law, the applicant has the right to choose the lawyer who will offer him free legal aid.

Outcome of the request for legal aid

When legal aid is requested for appeals, the amendments of the Legal Aid Law 2022 as entered into force on 31 December 2024 provide that It is explicitly provided in the law that where the court considers that the issuance of a certificate for free legal aid is not justified, it must give reasons in its judgment. ([Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice and Public Order](#)).

Precisely, pursuant to Article 7 (7) of the [Legal Aid Law 2022](#), where the court considers that the issue of a certificate granting free legal aid is not justified, it shall state the reasons therefor in its judgment.

Legal assistance and representation at first instance determination

Service provider

State funded legal aid

The Refugee Law and the Legal Aid Act do not cover legal assistance at first instance determination. The Refugee Law encompasses mainly the provision of free of charge legal and procedural information – see section 3.2. below.

The provision of free procedural/legal advice/counselling during the administrative asylum procedure falls under the framework of co-funded projects or on State budget.

Civil society organisations

The Cyprus Refugee Council is the main organisation providing legal aid to asylum seekers in Cyprus. It is funded by UNHCR or through AMIF.

They implement the project "[Strengthening Asylum](#)", which offers free legal and social advice to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.

Article 2 (1) of the [Refugee Law](#) mentions that "legal advisor" means a person who holds a tertiary degree in Law, who is recognized by the competent authorities of the Republic, and is registered in the Register of Practising Lawyers.

Also, according to Article 11 (9) of the Refugee Law, the applicant is entitled to consult, at his own expense and in a substantive manner, a lawyer or legal advisor, on matters relating to his application, at all stages of the application examination procedure, even after a negative decision by the Head.

Scope of legal assistance

The [Refugee Law](#) provides for the following with regard to access to legal and procedural information:

The unaccompanied minor shall be provided with such information free of charge, in line with subsection (7C) of article 18, as well as information on the procedures for the revocation and expiry of international protection provided for in articles 6, 6A, 6B and 19, respectively.

Upon request of the interested person, the Head of the Asylum Service shall ensure the provision of free legal and procedural information, in the form decided by the Head – see Article 18 (7C) of the Refugee Law.

Such legal and procedural information shall include as a minimum the following (Article 18 (C)(b)):

(i) Information regarding the procedure for examining the applicant's application, taking into account the particularities of the applicant's case; and

(ii) in the event of rejection of the application by the Head, in addition to what is provided for in subsections (7B) and (7E) of this article, information explaining the reasons for the decision and the possibilities of filing an appeal under Article 146 of the Constitution as well as the deadline for filing such an appeal.

The Head of the Asylum Service may decide that free legal and procedural information is provided by the following providers, funded by the state:

(i) Non-governmental organisations; or

(ii) professionals of government authorities, provided that he has obtained the consent of such government authorities; or

(iii) specialized government agencies, provided that he has obtained the consent of such specialised government agencies; or

(iv) private lawyers or legal advisors; or

(v) Asylum Service officers who are not involved in examining applications.

Personal interview

The lawyer/legal advisor can participate during the personal interview before the Asylum Service and is only allowed to intervene at the end of the personal interview – see Article 18 (1, 1A, 1B, 1C) of the Refugee Law. However, the absence of the applicant's lawyer or legal advisor does not prevent the Asylum Service from conducting a personal interview with the applicant, except for unaccompanied minors.

For unaccompanied minors, the following safeguards apply, as provided by Article 10 (1B, 1C and 1D):- designate a guardian for the unaccompanied minor, ensure that the applicant has a legal representative and the latter has the opportunity to inform the unaccompanied minor about the meaning and possible consequences of the personal interview and, if appropriate, about the way in which the unaccompanied minor should prepare for the personal interview; - the Asylum Service shall allow the representative and/or legal advisor to attend the personal interview of the unaccompanied minor and to submit questions or observations, within the framework determined by the competent officer conducting the interview. Even if the unaccompanied minor has a representative, he or she can still be requested by the Asylum Service to be personally present for the personal interview.

Procedural aspects

Pursuant to [Article 18 \(2B\) \(a\)](#), the applicant and his lawyer/legal advisor must be granted access, prior to a decision making by the Head on an asylum application, to the report on the personal interview or to the transcript of the transcript and, subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection, to any audio and/or audiovisual recording of the personal interview.

The access to the audio and /or audiovisual recording of the personal interview is granted only in the event that a person appeals to the Administrative Court under Article 146 of the Constitution against a decision taken by the Head under the Refugee Law.

Pursuant to Article 18bis of the Refugee Law, the applicant's lawyer or legal advisor, who provides assistance or representation to the applicant, is entitled, upon request, to access the information in the applicant's file. The request is made to the Head of the Asylum Service who has to take a decision on it. The Head may decide to reject the request on grounds of i) disclosure of the information or sources may endanger public safety, the safety of the organizations or persons providing the information, or the safety of the persons to whom the information relates; or ii) the investigations relating to the examination of the application or the international relations of Cyprus are affected. However, in such a case, the lawyer/legal advisor has to undergo a security check for access to specific information or sources, provided that the information is relevant for the examination of the application or for making a decision on the withdrawal of international protection.

According to Article 18 (7) of the [Refugee Law](#): *"Every decision of the Head shall be in writing and shall be notified, within a reasonable time, to the applicant or to the lawyer or legal advisor legally representing him"*.

Representation

Article 18 (8) of the [Refugee Law](#) provides that the applicant can be represented by a lawyer or legal advisor at all stages of the application examination procedure before the Asylum Service.

Aspects related to special procedures

Free legal assistance is regulated by the Legal Aid Law of 2002(N. 165(I)/2002). It covers the procedures on second instance when an applicant wishes to challenge a negative asylum decision to the International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC) by lodging an appeal. Legal assistance and representation in any other stage is not provided by the Government. An applicant can acquire legal assistance and representation by their own means or be assisted for free by NGO's.

Aspects related to applicants with special needs

The legal adviser can never be appointed as a legal guardian of an unaccompanied minor, as in Cyprus the Director of the Social Welfare Services acts as the legal guardian of the minor. No interplay between legal aid and guardianship of unaccompanied minors takes place.

Provision of legal aid to victims of trafficking

The Law 60(I)/2014 on Prevention and Combating of Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and the Protection of Victims provides the legislative framework for action against THB and has been amended through Law 117(I)/2019, enacted on 26 July 2019. Legal aid is available and free of charge in all procedures, including criminal, and civil for compensation of damages. The police inform victims of their right to legal advice, irrespective of the person's decision to cooperate in the criminal proceedings. Legal advice is provided mainly by the police, and in some cases CSOs have provided legal services, including through lawyers contracted by them. According to [GRETA 3rd evaluation report](#), legal aid was not requested in investigations, but in some cases concerning compensation for damages.

Legal assistance and representation in appeals

Service provider

The service provider can be a lawyer as designated in line with the Legal Aid Act. According to Article 2 (1) of the [Legal Aid Law](#) "lawyer" means a person registered in the Register of Lawyers who practices the profession in accordance with the Lawyers Law.

The service provider can be a lawyer as designated in line with the Legal Aid Act, or a representative of a civil society organisation working on refugee law or human rights and authorised under Cypriot law.

Article 3 of the Legal Aid Law defines that free legal aid is provided in procedures referred to in Article 6B - Legal assistance to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.

Pursuant to Article 11 (1) of the Legal Aid Law, the Cyprus Bar Association must draw up a list of lawyers who are offering services. The list shall include the sector and type of legal assistance that each lawyer is interested in offering, including on Article 6B (free legal assistance and representation

for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection). Also, a lawyer who wishes to be included in the list for the first time shall send a relevant request to the Cyprus Bar Association, indicating the province, the sector and the type of legal assistance he is interested in providing services. The Cyprus Bar Association shall inform the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of each new entry in the list. In addition, a lawyer shall be removed from the list in which he is registered, if he submits a relevant application to the Cyprus Bar Association or is removed for any reason from the Register of Lawyers practising the profession.

In December 2024, amendments to the Legal Aid Law 2002 (165(I)/2002) were voted in parliament and adopted. The main changes to the law include in essence:

Restriction of the possibility to obtain legal aid for beneficiaries of international protection and irregularly staying third country nationals if the appeal is filled within the deadline.

The requirement of a socio-economic report is now not required for international protection applicants and irregularly staying third country nationals.

It is explicitly provided in the law that where the court considers that the issuance of a certificate for free legal aid is not justified, it must give reasons in its judgment.

The legal representative of the beneficiary or third country national must be chosen in serial order from a list established beforehand by the Cyprus Bar Association containing no less than 20 lawyers' names.

[Hereby included](#) the Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice and Public Order and the final amendment text.

Scope of legal assistance

Legal assistance includes also situations when the case is reopened and the application reviewed – see Article 16E (1) of the [Refugee Law](#).

According to Article 6B (11) of the Legal Aid Law, the free legal aid provided for in subsections (2), (3), (4), (5) and (8) consists of the preparation and registration of the necessary procedural documents and participation in a hearing before the Administrative Court of first instance, on behalf of the applicant for free legal aid.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Legal Aid Law, the legal assistance includes the provision of advice, assistance and representation. In this context, when the legal aid is granted, the lawyer will

take any legitimate steps on behalf of the applicant. This means that the lawyer will handle the necessary formalities of legal proceedings, and it does not require by the applicant to handle anything by himself/herself.

Article 6b (11) of the Legal Aid Law provides that free legal aid consists of the preparation and registration of the necessary procedural documents and participation in a hearing before the Administrative Court of first instance, on behalf of the applicant for free legal aid.

Procedural aspects

The applicant submits a legal aid application to the Court. The court then examines the application and decides whether the applicant's appeal has merit or not, and either grants legal aid or rejects the application. When an application is approved and legal aid can be granted, the applicant will pick a lawyer from a designated list. Please note that the lawyers are not public officers/lawyers that work for the Legal Service of the Republic, but private lawyers that are paid from the legal aid fund. The applicant's lawyer has the right to access their clients file by submitting a request and making an appointment to the Asylum Service. Regarding access to classified information, a special procedure is followed where the lawyer would additionally need to fill out specific forms that require the Police's approval. Cyprus doesn't hold online/remote hearings.

Interpretation

In practice, if applicants applying for legal aid cannot understand or speak the language used in Courts (Greek language), then they are provided with free services of an interpreter during the Court hearing.

If their application is successful, they also receive free services of an interpreter during the entire recourse procedure. It is important to mention that

The application forms for free legal aid have been translated upon request of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Cyprus, by the Press and Information Office of the Republic of Cyprus, in the following languages: Turkish, English, French, Farsi, Russian, Ukrainian, Arabic and Spanish. Although, the application forms are available in the languages previously mentioned, when filling in their forms, applicants are still provided with the aid of a translator and interpreter, in order for them to be able to communicate with the Recourse Registry and be informed of the date of the first hearing and of the procedure that needs to be followed.

Furthermore, once the forms have been filled in and signed by the applicant, the interpreter should translate them to Greek. This is done via affidavit. In all other languages, the Recourse Registry takes all reasonable steps to arrange for an interpreter to assist the applicant by translating the application in writing in the applicants' mother language and also to provide all services explained above. During the hearing for the legal aid application of an applicant, free assistance of an interpreter is provided. In case such application is successful, free assistance of an interpreter is also provided during the entire recourse procedure.

Also, Article 6B (14) of the Legal Aid Law provides that the free legal aid shall include free of charge (1) interpretation and (2) translation of the application form for free legal aid.

Exclusion from legal aid

Pursuant to Article 6B (13) of the Legal Aid Law, legal aid cannot be provided if the person concerned is not present in the areas controlled by the Government of the Republic.

Notification

The decision of the Administrative Court of International Protection must, within a reasonable time, be notified to the applicant or to the lawyer legally representing him – see Article 11 (9) of the [Establishment and Operation of the Administrative Court of International Protection Law of 2018 \(73\(I\)/2018\)](#).

Type of appeal

Free legal assistance and representation pursuant to Article 6B of the [Legal Aid Act](#) covers the following types of appeal, pursuant to the provisions of Article 146 of the Constitution:

Paragraph 2 : against a negative decision on the application for international protection of the applicant in question, which decision the Director took pursuant to the provisions of section 5, 12Bbis, 12B, 12D or 13 of the Refugee Law of 2000, or

(b) upon refusal of the Head to resume the examination of an application that was discontinued under the provisions of section 16B or 16C of the Refugee Law of 2000.

The first condition for free legal aid as stipulated in paragraph (aa) is that free legal aid concerns only the first-instance hearing of the appeal before the Administrative Court under the provisions of Article 146 of the Constitution, and not the hearing of an appeal before the Supreme Court against the judicial decision issued in the context of the said first-instance hearing, nor any other legal

remedy.

The second condition (merits test) is that the Administrative Court considers that the appeal has a real chance of success, but this provision has to be applied without arbitrarily restricting the provision of free legal aid and without preventing the applicant for international protection's effective access to justice.

- Paragraph 3: appeals against decisions to revoke terminate or revoke the refugee status of the person in question, pursuant to the provisions of section 6, 6A or 6B of the Refugee Law of 2000,

Same conditions apply as above.

- Paragraph 4: against decisions to grant subsidiary protection instead of refugee status.

Same conditions apply as above.

- Paragraph 5: against a decision of the Director to terminate or revoke the subsidiary protection status for the person in question, in accordance with the provisions of section 6B or subsection (3) or (3A) of section 19 of the Refugee Law of 2000.

Same conditions apply as above.

Article 31C of the Refugee Law 2000 enshrines the rights of the applicant when appealing before the Supreme Constitutional Court on matters related to international protection and includes:

- the right to communicate with UNHCR or any other organization that provides legal or other advice to applicants in accordance with Cypriot law, for the hearing of the appeal (Article 31 C(2);
- access of the applicant and if his lawyer/legal advisor as referred in Article 18bis to have access to information referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (7A) of Article 18 and to the advice referred to in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (b) of the said subsection (7A), when such information and/or advice has been taken into account by the Asylum Service when making a decision on the application.
- To have the decision adopted within a reasonable time and communicated in writing to the applicant and to the lawyer representing him – Article 31 C (5).

Representation

Applicants can be represented during the second instance determination. Second instance procedures are regulated by the Procedural Regulations of 2019 on the Operation of the Administrative Court for International Protection (3/2019)

Aspects related to applicants with special needs

Pursuant to Article 10A (3b)(i) of the [Refugee Law](#), applicants with special needs who intend to appeal before the Administrative Court, shall be provided with the necessary assistance of an interpreter and legal assistance and a deadline of at least one (1) week, so that the applicant may prepare his application to the Administrative Court and submit to the Administrative Court the arguments for allowing the right to remain in the territory of the Republic, pending the first-instance hearing of the appeal.

Right to counselling in the Dublin procedure

Provision of legal aid in the Dublin procedure follows the same rules as for provision of legal aid during first instance determination and appeals.

For appeals against a decision on a Dublin transfer, Article 6B (8) of the Legal Aid Law for an appeal before the Administrative Court under the provisions of Article 146 of the Constitution under the following conditions:

(a) Free legal aid concerns only the first instance hearing of the appeal before the Administrative Court under the provisions of Article 146 of the Constitution, and not the hearing of an appeal before the Supreme Court against the judicial decision issued in the context of the said first-instance hearing, nor any other legal remedy; and

(b) in the opinion of the Administrative Court, the appeal has a real chance of success:

It is understood that the provisions of paragraph (b) shall be applied without arbitrarily restricting the provision of free legal aid and without preventing the aforementioned person's effective access to justice.

Article 6b (11) of the Legal Aid Law provides that free legal aid consists of the preparation and registration of the necessary procedural documents and participation in a hearing before the Administrative Court of first instance, on behalf of the applicant for free legal aid.

Access to legal aid while in detention

The Police or other competent authority of the Republic, under whose control the detention facility in which the applicant is detained falls, shall systematically provide information to the applicant in detention explaining the regulations applicable to the facility and setting out his rights and obligations in a language which he either understands or is reasonably supposed to understand (Article 9F (13) of the [Refugee Law 2000](#)).

Article 9F (8) of the Refugee Law mentions that the Minister has the obligation to inform every detainee in writing, in a language that the latter either understands or is reasonably supposed to understand, of the reasons for detention, of the judicial proceedings referred to in subsections (6) and (7) and of the possibility of applying for free legal assistance and representation in the context of these proceedings in accordance with the Legal Aid Law.

Pursuant to Article 9N (6) (b) and (c) of the Refugee Law:

applicants should have the opportunity to communicate with relatives, legal advisors or advocates, UNHCR representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant national, international and non-governmental organizations and bodies;

access shall be granted to advocates or legal advisers, representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and relevant non-governmental organizations recognized by law or by the authorities of the Republic for the purposes of providing assistance to applicants, except when restrictions on such access are imposed solely for reasons related to the security of the area and of the applicants.

On access to premises, please consult Access to legal assistance and representation – Access to premises.

According to the 1959 Aliens and Immigration Law, foreign nationals [detained](#) due to their irregular situation have the right to be assisted by a lawyer. Foreign nationals detained in the Menoyia Detention Centre may contact their lawyers at any time, as they remain in possession of their mobile phones and have unrestricted access to the internet through the computers made available to them by the Centre. Lawyers could meet their clients without limitations during visiting hours, in a room made available for this purpose.

For asylum seekers, free legal aid is conditioned by a [merits test](#).

Appeals

Article 6B (7) of the [Legal Aid Law](#) provides that legal aid is provided to an applicant for international protection who is lodging an appeal against an administrative act concerning his/her detention (pursuant to Article 146 of the Constitution) or submits an application to the Supreme Court for the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus under the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article 155 of the Constitution, to review the legality of the duration of his detention.

Provision of free legal aid is limited only to the first-instance hearing of the said appeal or the said application, respectively, and not the hearing of an appeal before the Supreme Court against a judicial decision issued in the context of the said first-instance hearing, nor any other legal remedy.

As for the right of the applicant during the appeal, Article 6B (9) of the Legal Aid Law provides that he can be accompanied by the police to appear before the Administrative Court for the purposes of exercising the right to free legal aid granted to under the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection (7) (lodging an appeal), and (b) to the Supreme Court, for the purposes of exercising the right to free legal aid granted to him under the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (7) (application before the Supreme Court).

Quality assurance

Selection, qualifications and training

Article 2 (1) of the [Refugee Law of 2000 \(6\(I\)/2000\)](#) defines the term 'legal advisor' as a person who holds a tertiary degree in Law, who is recognised by the competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus, and is registered in the Register of Practising Lawyers.

According to Article 11 of the [Legal Aid Law 2022](#), the Cyprus Bar Association shall draw up a list of the names of lawyers who are interested in offering services in accordance with the provisions of this Law. The list shall be kept in the alphabetical order of the names of lawyers interested in offering services, shall be communicated by the Cyprus Bar Association and posted on the official website of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Supreme Court and the Cyprus Bar Association. The list shall indicate the field and type of legal aid that each lawyer is interested, corresponding to the fields provided in the legal aid law.

According to the amendments proposed to the Legal Aid Law 2002 (165(I)/2002), as of 31 December 2024, the legal representative of the beneficiary or third country national must be chosen in serial order from a list established beforehand by the Cyprus Bar Association containing no less than 20 lawyers' names (source: [The Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice and](#)

[Public Order](#)). Precisely Article 11 (2) provides that: in case legal aid is granted under the provisions of Articles 6B (international protection), the list may be adjusted by the Registry of the Court in relation to the number of names of lawyers appearing therein and the list may not indicate a number of names less than twenty (20), provided that there is such a number of lawyers willing to offer services.

The [Cyprus Refugee Council](#) includes selection criteria when opening tenders for selection of lawyer/legal service provider for cases related to asylum seekers and refugees. See for example the [latest tender of 9 June 2023](#). Requirements for service provider include:

- a. Strong expertise on Human Rights, Refugee Law and Administrative Law including EU and national Law;
- b. Ability to provide legal representation throughout the asylum procedures and before the Supreme Court, Administrative Court, the Administrative Court of International Protection and other national courts;
- c. Ability to provide legal services including revision of case-law, legal research, drafting of legal submissions, legal advocacy reports;
- d. Ability to provide legal counselling in detention centres and reception centres;
- e. Capacity to provide tracking of court appearances and cases;
- f. Capacity and availability to communicate and work on a daily basis closely with the CyRC legal team;
- g. Ability to document and report on all services provided in line with reporting requirements as determined.

Mechanisms for quality assurance

Quality of legal assistance, code of ethics and code of conduct for legal advisers are regulated by the Lawyers Law (CHAP.2) and the Lawyers Code of Conducts Regulation (Κ.Δ.Π. 237/2002)

Inter-institutional cooperation

There are no mechanisms in place in Cyprus.

Legal assistance and representation for related procedures

Procedures in which a person has the right to legal aid are described in the Legal Aid Law of 2002 (165(I)/2002).

Reception conditions

Lawyers and legal advisers can have access to reception centers to discuss case related issues with their clients following the Asylum Service's approval of a relevant request. An applicant can appeal a decision about reception conditions on their own means. Legal assistance is usually provided by NGO's.

Family reunification

Information is currently not available.

Temporary protection procedure

Information is currently not available.

Beneficiaries of international protection

Procedures in which a person has the right to legal aid are described in the Legal Aid Law of 2002 (165(I)/2002) and specifically for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in article 6B of said Law.