

My guidebook on return



**Children
version**



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FRONTEX



EUROPEAN BORDER AND
COAST GUARD AGENCY

**Children
version**



This book belongs to:

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Note to parents/guardians:

Did you arrive in Europe from another country? Is your family now returning home or leaving for another country? Yes! This book could help your children.

This move will be a big change for them. Some parts of it might be difficult. We know that as a parent/guardian you want the best for your children and that you might be worried for their wellbeing. Fortunately, there are things you can do to make moving easier for them. Often, children do better when they have information about what will happen to them. If your children are too young to read this book on their own, you can read it to them and complete the suggested activities together. Be sure to explain the information in language they can understand and encourage them to ask questions and share how they feel. If they are older and can read the book on their own, you can ask them about what they read, listen to how they are feeling and answer any questions they have. This is what this book is for.

This book is written for children age 6-11. Another book about the same topic is available for teenagers. There is also an Activity Book to help children write about their experiences and emotions about this move and their life afterwards called: Activity Book.

If your children ask you questions you do not know the answers to, please ask authorities. Also, remember that children do well when their family is doing well. Be sure to take care of yourself, so that you can take care of your children.



We wrote this book for you.

You may have been told that you have to move and go live in your family's home country. This book explains what might happen between now and when you arrive at your new home.

The more you know, the more prepared you will be for this big change in your life.

Do you have questions about travelling back to your family's home country? Write or draw a picture about them here:

If you feel like it, you can write about them here:



Not everything we describe in this book will apply to you. Things may happen for you in a different order.

As you take this journey you will meet adults whose job it is to help you and your family.

If this book doesn't answer your questions, ask these people or someone you trust.



Important ! - Your rights

Just like adults, children and youth have rights. Rights provide you with what you need to survive and develop, protect you from violence and discrimination, and help you participate and be heard on decisions that affect you. People under the age of 18 have special rights and these are written in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is an important agreement by countries who have promised to protect the rights of ALL children. All the rights are connected, they are all important, they cannot be taken away from you, and you have these rights everywhere you go.



On the next page you can find the UNICEF poster with the rights.

You can find them all here with more information:





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CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



1. Hearing about the return decision

The country where you are staying, as every country, has laws and rules. Decisions are made by the authorities of the country based on these laws and rules. For you and your family there is now no possibility to stay and live here. Sadly, even if you wanted to stay here this is not possible at the moment. This means that you have to return to your family's home country.

This is a big change. You might not remember your family's home country. You might feel sad to leave your friends or school. You might be worried about the move and uncertain about what your life afterwards will be like. Or perhaps you are happy to see friends and family from your family's home country and excited about this big change. All these feelings are normal.



Sometimes it is helpful to share your feelings with someone you trust. If you feel comfortable you can show them what you wrote.



If you want to, you can write about them here:



2. Identification and travel documents

You need a passport to travel. If you don't have a passport, the government of your family's home country will make you one. You either get your own passport or you will be included on your parent's passport.

A person from the government of your family's home country may meet with you to check that the information for your passport is correct. This person may ask your name, where you were born and the places you have lived. They might speak to you in a language of your family's home country.





Also, someone will take your photo for your passport. If you are older, your fingerprints could also be taken.

3. Where you stay before travelling

Before you and your family return to your home country, you may have to stay in a building with other families who are waiting to travel. You and your family will stay together. You will get food to eat and medical care when you are sick or hurt. You will stay here until you travel. You may or may not be allowed to leave the building or have people living outside visit you. There are different rules in different countries.





4. Travelling to the airport

When it is time to travel, you and your family will travel together to your family's home country by plane. A van will take you and your family to the airport. There will be special seats in the van for younger children.

A person(s) called an escort may go in the van with you. If so, this escort may wear a special vest so you can recognize them. They are here to help you. This is their job. You can ask them questions.





5. At the airport

At the airport you must show your passports at the check-in desk. You leave your big luggage here. It will travel in the bottom of the plane. You may take a small bag with you on the plane.

After the check in you will go through the security screening. They will check everybody's luggage, also your toys and books that you want to bring in the plane. You may have to show your passports to the customs official. You will wait together with your family at the airport. When the plane is ready to leave, you will get on the plane as a family and sit together. An escort may wait with your family. You can ask them questions. If there is something you need, they might be able to help you.





It can happen that you see someone with handcuffs. This is to keep them and others safe.

6. In the plane

On the plane, you will sit together with your family and other people also travelling to the same destination.

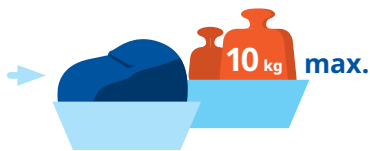


You may be served a meal and drinks and you may be able to watch a video on the screens. There is a toilet on the plane. Flight attendants will help you if you need anything and give instructions about what to do to be safe, like fasten your seatbelt. It is a good idea to bring toys, a book, or games in your hand luggage so you can play with them during the flight.

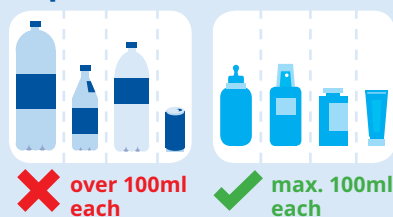
You may only have to take one plane, or you might have to stop at another airport and change planes to get to your destination.



Hand luggage rules



Liquid rules



max. 1l total
at the moment

clear
plastic
bag





7. Arrival

When you arrive in your family's home country, you will leave the plane as a family. You must wait for your luggage. A person may help you travel from the airport to where you will be staying. Your family may get help from an organisation to support you.



8. The future

Now that you are in the country of your family, you will experience new and different things. Like, a new house, a new school, a different language, and different foods.

New is always exciting, so don't be afraid of discovering new things, maybe a nice new teacher, finding new kind friends, and some good new candies.

This new life might also make you feel sad, or angry, or worried. All these feelings are normal.

And it will take some time to get used to, this is natural. But remember that your family is there, and they can help you.

If you feel comfortable, please share how you feel with someone you trust and love.



Room for notes



FINAL

For feedback on the books,
please contact us at:
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