



Have you been living in Germany for a long time with a "Duldung" (temporary suspension of deportation)?

If you have been living in Germany for 5 years or longer with a "Duldung", you can get a residence permit for 18 months through the Chancen-Aufenthaltsrecht (Opportunity-Residence-Act). During this time you should take care of the missing requirements for another right to remain. You have the chance to find a job, earn your own money and get a passport, for example. Achieving these three things will enable you to get the papers that allow you to stay in Germany after the 18 months ends.

When can I apply for the "Chancen-Aufenthaltsrecht"?

- You have lived in Germany for at least 5 years on 31 October 2022.
- You have had a "Duldung", "Aufenthalts-gestattung" or residence permit for this entire period
- You have not committed any serious criminal offences and you know and accept the rules of living in German society
- You have not deceived others about your identity in the past and are thus currently preventing your deportation.



This is only about your **current** behaviour, not about your behaviour in the past. It is also **only what you have (not) done** that counts and not the behaviour of your parents and siblings!

What is different about the "Chancen-Aufenthaltsrecht"?

- You can also apply for the right of residence if you come from a "safe country of origin"(*) and have a **work ban**. You will then be granted permission to work for 18 months. This gives you a chance to fulfil all the requirements for a right to stay in Germany.
- When you apply, you **do not have to be working** or earning your own money. This means you can get benefits from the state.
- If you have had a "**Duldung light**" (§60b Residence Act) in the past, this time also counts towards the 5 years of residence. The "Duldung light" is granted to persons who have intentionally not clarified their identity.

* "**Safe countries of origin**" are currently (January 2024): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Ghana, Kosovo, Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic), Moldova, Montenegro, Senegal, Serbia and the EU countries.



Opportunity-Residence-Act (Chancen-Aufenthaltsrecht)



When you apply, you do not have to submit a passport at the same time. The Chancen-Aufenthaltsrecht gives you the security and the time you need to **fulfil the conditions for other residency permits**. These conditions may include: obtaining identity papers such as a passport, or applying for a school-leaving qualification or a job.

Where can I find support?

It makes sense to go to a counselling centre close to you. There are refugee councils in every state and in many large cities. If you do not live in Lower Saxony, you can go to www.fluechtlingsrat.de to contact the refugee council in your federal state.

They can help you or tell you which counselling centre you can turn to.



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