



Horizon 13

Information Bulletin for Migrants in Geneva

Operation Papyrus: the first permits are here!

CCSI played an important role in the launch of operation Papyrus. The operation seeks to legalize the situation of persons and families who have been living and working in Geneva for a long time, and are well integrated.

Today, CCSI continues to inform those who may be concerned and to help them with the procedure if they want to request a permit.

The first permits granted thanks to operation Papyrus have already arrived this summer, and we hope to obtain permits for the other persons and families defended by CCSI very soon.

Please note that there is **no need to hire a lawyer** to request a permit with operation Papyrus. Organizations like CCSI have been part of the project since the very beginning and are **more competent** to advise you. We are here to serve your interests, not to make money.

Hiring a lawyer often costs a lot of money, and will not get better results. Please ask us for advice next time you come by our offices: we can give you answers quickly and for free!

Primary school: registration

Any child living in Geneva, regardless of his/her legal status, has the right and the obligation to go to school. Children born before 01.08.2013 start school on August 28th 2017.

To be accepted at school, your child must have health insurance. CCSI is in charge of affiliation for children without a residence permit. Make an appointment, and come with the official identification for the child and his/her legal guardian, as well as your address. Your child will be able to start school as soon as you have come to CCSI.

School meals for children

If you live in the city of Geneva and your income is within the range, CCSI can request free school meals for your child. Please come with a copy of the health insurance subsidy and valid passports. For residents of other cities, please ask CCSI if financial aid is available.

Once you have obtained the exoneration, you do not need to bring the invoices to CCSI, you can discard them without paying them. Caution, you must always pay the fixed fees (cotisation in French) and the meals your child didn't attend without a valid excuse.

Our new website

CCSI is launching its new website! It now features a new **section for migrants**, where you will find lots of important information, as well as useful addresses and practical tips.

Our "Help and information" pages are available in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese. They will help you to find answers to your most common questions easily and quickly.

Don't hesitate to have a look at our new website and to tell us if you have any questions, remarks or suggestions:

www.ccsi.ch

Information sessions

You will also find on our website the announcements for the collective information sessions CCSI is organizing in the next few months.

We will send you a text message (SMS) to tell you the date, time and subject of these sessions. You can of course tell us if you do not wish to get messages like this, please just mention this at our reception next time you come.

Health insurance subsidy

You must ask for the subsidy (financial aid from the State for health insurance) for your child's health insurance each year. If you haven't done so yet, please make an appointment with CCSI as soon as possible and bring the 2017 insurance policy with you. This year, there are **new documents to provide**:

- a) If you have family benefits (allocations familiales), you need to bring a statement of the sums you received in 2016.
- b) If you (as an adult) have health insurance, please bring your 2016 insurance policy/ies.
- c) Please bring your bus passes.

As soon as you receive the subsidy, please bring a copy of the certificate to our reception with your name and phone number.

The subsidy is a right depending on your income. **Requesting it will not affect other proceedings, such as the request for a residency permit.** Only children residing in the canton of Geneva have the right to the health insurance subsidy. CCSI cannot request the subsidy for children living in neighboring France.

The subsidy covers your child's premium up to 100.- maximum. Every month, you will have to pay whatever exceeds 100.-. If you have supplemental health insurance, you will have to pay for it entirely; it is never covered by the subsidy.

In some cases, it is possible to pay a lower monthly premium. If you already have a pediatrician, you can give his/her name to the insurance or make an appointment at CCSI. She will help you to request a lower premium.

It often takes time for the insurance company to register your subsidy. In the meantime, it is best to pay the first bills yourself (they will be reimbursed later), or to call the insurance company to try and block the bills.

Family benefits

Any person who is **employed and living** in Switzerland, and who earns at least CHF 587.- declared to AVS per month has a **right to family benefits** (allocations familiales). In the canton of Geneva, family benefits are CHF 300.- per month for a child up to the age of 16, and CHF 400.- for young people who are studying/in training (there is a CHF 100.- bonus for big families as of the 3rd child).

It is not necessary to have a residency permit (parents or children) to have a right to family benefits, and your employer must request them for you.

European (EU) families who live and work in Switzerland but have children in another EU country also have a right to family benefits.

If you are having trouble getting your family benefits, or need information about birth benefits (allocation de naissance, for newborn babies), please let us know next time you come!

Health insurance: caution!

If a person calls you on the telephone or comes to your door saying you must change insurance or take on a new contract, **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING!** Contact CCSI for all matters regarding your health insurance.

Meet & play for children

For children in pre-school age, Geneva offers several meeting and playing places (open to all and free) where parents and their children meet other parents and children, as well as childcare professionals. Outside school hours, children up to the age of 12 are welcome. Here are a few addresses in Geneva city:

- *Espace Parents-Enfants*
Rue du Temple 10

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
10am-1.30pm

Wednesday: 10am-4pm

Lunch is served (free of charge) to families who want it Monday through Friday at 12.15. *Espace Parents-Enfants* stays open during school holidays (except for a month in the summer).

- *Le Cerf-Volant*
Boulevard Carl-Vogt 82

Monday to Friday 2.30-6.30pm
Tuesday and Thursday 9am-noon
Saturday 2-6pm

- *Université populaire albanaise*
UPA
Chemin Surinam 7

Monday, Thursday 9-11.30 am

Dual nationals: defend your rights!

If you are a Swiss national, and you or a member of your immediate family (child, parent, spouse) is also an EU citizen, you might have more extended rights than as a Swiss citizen. It is often the case with family reunification, for example. It is important to tell us if you or a member of your immediate family are dual national and also have EU citizenship, we can help you defend your rights!