GOLDENVISAS.FYI — GUIDE

Family Members and Dependants in Investment Migration

Who qualifies as a dependant, age limits, marriage and civil partnership rules, newborn children, and programme-specific differences for residence and citizenship by investment.

Updated November 1, 2026

Dependant definitions vary by programme. Always check the current legislation or official FAQ. The table below summarises typical rules as of 2026-11-01.

Who counts as a dependant

Category	Typical inclusion	Typical age limit	Key conditions
Spouse	All programmes	No limit	Legal marriage certificate; some accept civil partnership
Children (biological/adopted)	All programmes	18–30	Unmarried, financially dependent, often full-time student if 18+
Parents (main applicant's)	Most CBI; some golden visas	55+ or 65+	Financially dependent; proof of support; extra fees
Parents (spouse's)	Some CBI (Antigua, St Lucia, Dominica, Grenada)	55+ or 65+	Financially dependent; extra fees
Grandparents	Very few (Antigua, Saint Lucia)	55+ or 65+	Financially dependent; extra fees
Siblings	Antigua, Saint Lucia only	Under 18 or 30	Unmarried, dependent, no children of their own
Newborn (post-approval)	All programmes	N/A	Register within 12 months (usually); fees + DD

Programme-specific dependant rules (citizenship by investment)

Programme	Spouse	Children	Parents	Grandparents	Siblings	Newborn registration
St Kitts and Nevis	'	<30 (if dependent, student)	>55 (dependent)	'	'	Within 12 months
Dominica	'	<30 (if dependent, student)	>65 (dependent)	'	'	Within 12 months
Grenada	'	<30 (if dependent, student)	>55 (dependent)	'	'	Within 12 months
Antigua and Barbuda	'	<30 (if dependent, student)	>55 (dependent)	>55 (dependent)	<30 (unmarried, dependent)	Within 12 months
Saint Lucia	'	<30 (if dependent, student)	>55 (dependent)	>55 (dependent)	<18 (unmarried, dependent)	Within 12 months
Malta (MEIN)	Closed	Scheme repealed July 2025	—	—	—	—
Türkiye	'	<18 (or any age if disabled)	'	'	'	Automatic with parent
Vanuatu	'	<25 (if dependent, student)	>50 (dependent)	'	'	Within 12 months

Sources: ciu.gov.kn (St Kitts), cbiu.gov.dm (Dominica), imagrenada.gd (Grenada), cip.gov.ag (Antigua), cipsaintlucia.com (Saint Lucia), invest.gov.tr (Türkiye), vancitizenship.gov.vu (Vanuatu), all accessed 2026-11-01.

Programme-specific dependant rules (residence by investment)

Programme	Spouse	Children	Parents	Other	Notes
Greece	'	<21 (unmarried)	' (main & spouse)	'	Parents no age limit if dependent
Spain	Closed to new applicants since April 2025	—	—	—	Existing permits keep family rights
Portugal (ARI)	'	<18 (or <26 if student)	' (>65, dependent)	'	De facto unions recognised
Italy	'	<18 (or dependent student)	' (dependent)	'	Civil unions = marriage
Malta (MPRP)	'	<29 (if dependent)	' (dependent)	'	Up to 4 generations in one application
UAE	'	<18 (or <25 if student)	' (dependent)	' (domestic staff)	No upper age for disabled children
USA (EB-5)	'	<21 (CSPA may freeze age)	'	'	Child Status Protection Act may apply
Cyprus (PR 6(2))	'	<18 (or dependent student)	'	'	Spouse and children included in the same application
Hungary	'	<18	' (dependent parents)	'	Guest investor permit, oif.gov.hu

Sources: migration.gov.gr (Greece), lamoncloa.gob.es (Spain), aima.gov.pt (Portugal), mimit.gov.it (Italy), residencymalta.gov.mt (Malta), u.ae (UAE), uscis.gov (USA), oif.gov.hu (Hungary), gov.cy (Cyprus), all accessed 2026-11-01.

Key definitions

Financially dependent: The dependant relies on the main applicant for substantial financial support. Evidence: bank transfers, shared household expenses, no independent income, tax returns showing dependency.

Full-time student: Enrolled in a recognised educational institution for "e20 hours/week or equivalent. Evidence: enrolment letter, tuition receipts, student ID.

Unmarried: Never married, not in a civil partnership, not in a de facto union (unless the programme recognises de facto unions as equivalent to marriage).

Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) — USA EB-5 only: The child's age is "frozen" at the date the I-526 petition is filed. If the child turns 21 before visa issuance, CSPA may still protect them if the petition was pending long enough. Consult a US immigration attorney.

Fees per dependant (checked 2026-11-01)

"Included" means the dependant adds nothing to the base contribution. DD = due diligence fee. Confirm every figure on the official page before you budget; governments change fees without notice.

Programme	Spouse	Child	Parent	Sibling/Grandparent	Source
St Kitts (SISC)	Included in US$250k (main + up to 3 dependants)	+US$25k (<18) / +US$50k (18+) per dependant after the third	+US$50k	N/A	ciu.gov.kn/sustainable-island-state-contribution
Dominica (EDF)	Included in US$250k (main + up to 3 dependants)	Additional dependants per the CBIU schedule	Per the CBIU schedule	N/A	cbiu.gov.dm
Grenada (NTF)	Included in US$235k (family of 4)	Included (family of 4); +US$25k–50k per dependant after the third	Included if 55+ in a family of 4; otherwise counted as an extra dependant	Sibling +US$75k	imagrenada.gd
Antigua (NDF)	Included in US$230k (no extra contribution for any dependant)	Included	Included (55+)	Included; processing US$20k for a family of 4, +US$10k per dependant from the fifth	cip.gov.ag/investment-options/ndf
Saint Lucia (NEF)	Included in US$240k (applicant + up to 3 dependants)	+US$10k (<18) / +US$20k (18+) per dependant after the third	+US$20k	+US$20k	cipsaintlucia.com
Malta MPRP	Included (spouse exempt)	€7,500 per adult dependant	€7,500 per adult dependant	N/A	residencymalta.gov.mt
Türkiye	Included				

Included (<18) | N/A | N/A | invest.gov.tr | | **Vanuatu (DSP)** | US$150k couple / US$165k couple + 1 child / US$180k couple + 2 children | Priced into the family tiers; +US$10k per additional applicant | +US$10k (additional applicant) | N/A | vancitizenship.gov.vu | | **Greece** | No extra investment; the main applicant pays a €2,000 e-fee (art. 132 Law 4251/2014) plus a €16 card fee | Permit and card fees apply per person — check the official page for the dependant amount | Same — check the official page | N/A | migration.gov.gr/en/golden-visa | | **Portugal (ARI)** | No extra investment; AIMA application and card fees apply per person — check the AIMA fee schedule | Same per person | Same per person | N/A | aima.gov.pt |

Notes: Due diligence and processing fees are charged per person on top (e.g. St Kitts DD US$7,500 per dependant 16+ — ciu.gov.kn; Saint Lucia processing US$1,000 + DD US$5,000 per dependant, DD from age 16 — cipsaintlucia.com; Grenada DD US$5,000 per person 17+, nil under 17 — imagrenada.gd). "After the third" means dependants beyond the first three in the application. Malta MPRP also charges a €500 residence card fee per person covering five years.

Documents required for each dependant

| Dependant | Core documents | |----------|----------------| | **Spouse** | Marriage certificate (apostilled/legalised), passport, police certificate, medical, photos | | **Child <18** | Birth certificate (apostilled), passport, medical, photos; adoption decree if applicable | | **Child 18+** | Above + proof of enrolment (student), proof of dependency (bank statements, no income), police certificate | | **Parent** | Birth certificate (showing relationship to main applicant), passport, police certificate, medical, proof of dependency (bank statements, no pension/income), medical insurance | | **Sibling/Grandparent** | Birth certificates (chain of relationship), passport, police certificate, medical, proof of dependency | | **Newborn** | Birth certificate (issued within 12 months of approval), passport, photos; parents' approval letters |

Adding dependants after approval

| Programme | Process | |----------|---------| | **Caribbean CBI** | Apply to CIU/CBIC with new dependant's docs + fees + DD. Usually 1–3 months. | | **Malta MPRP** | A new dependant may be added on payment of the per-dependant fee plus due diligence. | | **Türkiye** | New family members apply for residence permit, then citizenship after 3 years (or immediately if property holder). | | **Golden visas** | Apply for family reunification / dependant residence card. Usually 1–3 months. | | **USA EB-5** | Derivatives included in I-526. If child born after filing, CSPA may apply. New spouse: file I-824 or new I-526. |

Practical tips

1. **List all potential dependants at engagement** — even if unsure. Adding later costs more and delays the main application.
2. **Get police certificates for everyone 16+ early** — they expire (usually 6 months). Time them with submission.
3. **Prove dependency with paper trail** — 12+ months of bank transfers, shared bills, tax returns showing dependent status.
4. **Check civil partnership recognition** — Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Malta recognise civil unions; some Caribbean programmes require legal marriage.
5. **Plan for newborns** — If pregnancy is likely during processing, discuss with agent. Most programmes allow registration within 12 months.

6. **Disabled dependants** — Most programmes waive age limits for disabled children/parents with medical certification.

Official resources

- Each programme's official FAQ/legislation page (linked in tables above)
- OECD Model Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (for dependency definitions in tax context)
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (for best-interests principle in dependant processing)

Disclaimer: Rules change. Age limits, fees and eligible categories are amended by legislation. Always verify on the official government website before you include a dependant.

Frequently asked questions

Can I add parents?

Most programmes allow parents of the main applicant or spouse, usually with an age threshold (55+ or 65+) and proof of financial dependence. Fees apply.

What about adult children?

Typically up to age 18–30 if financially dependent, unmarried, and in full-time education. Some programmes (e.g. Portugal, Malta MPRP) allow older children with proof of dependence.

Can I add a sibling?

Rare. Only a few programmes (e.g. Antigua, Saint Lucia) allow siblings of the main applicant or spouse, usually under 18 or 30, unmarried, and dependent.

What if a child is born after approval?

Most programmes allow registration of newborns within a defined period (usually 12 months) without re-applying. Fees and due diligence apply.

Do dependants need separate due diligence?

Yes. All dependants 16+ (sometimes 18+) undergo police certificates and database screening. Fees apply per person.