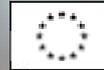


ASYLUM INTERVIEW AT THE FINNISH IMMIGRATION SERVICE



MAAHANMUUTTOVIRASTO
MIGRATIONSVERKET
FINNISH IMMIGRATION SERVICE



ERF



REFUGEE ADVICE CENTRE

This brochure is an illustrated supplement to the Representation in the Asylum Process publication.
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You have been invited to the Finnish Immigration Service's asylum interview to discuss the events which led to you leaving your home country. The asylum interview is the single most important part of the application process.

You will be accompanied in the interview by your representative, an interpreter and the Finnish Immigration Service's interviewer. The interpreter is impartial; in other words, he or she is not employed by the Finnish Immigration Service, nor can he or she instruct or advise you. You may also be accompanied by a legal counsel, if you or your representative feels that this is important. Sometimes, a social worker may also be present.

You should not be afraid of the interview. There may be matters which you find difficult to discuss. The people present in the interview will not tell anyone in your home country about anything you discuss in the interview. No one, not even your family and friends, will find out what you discuss in the interview, unless you yourself wish to tell them. It is important that you discuss things truthfully and as thoroughly as you can. You don't need to tell the interviewer things

that someone else may have told you to tell. If you cannot remember all events in detail, inform your interviewer about this. Likewise, tell the interviewer if you do not know the answer to a particular question. The main thing is that you answer truthfully at all times.

The interviewer will record all his or her questions in the interview protocol. He or she will also note down everything you say. The protocol is inspected at the end of the interview: the interpreter reads and interprets the protocol to you, and you can request corrections if you spot any errors. Finally, you will be asked to sign the protocol to confirm that the information is correct. The asylum interview will be recorded so that it can be checked later to ensure that everything has been correctly noted and interpreted.

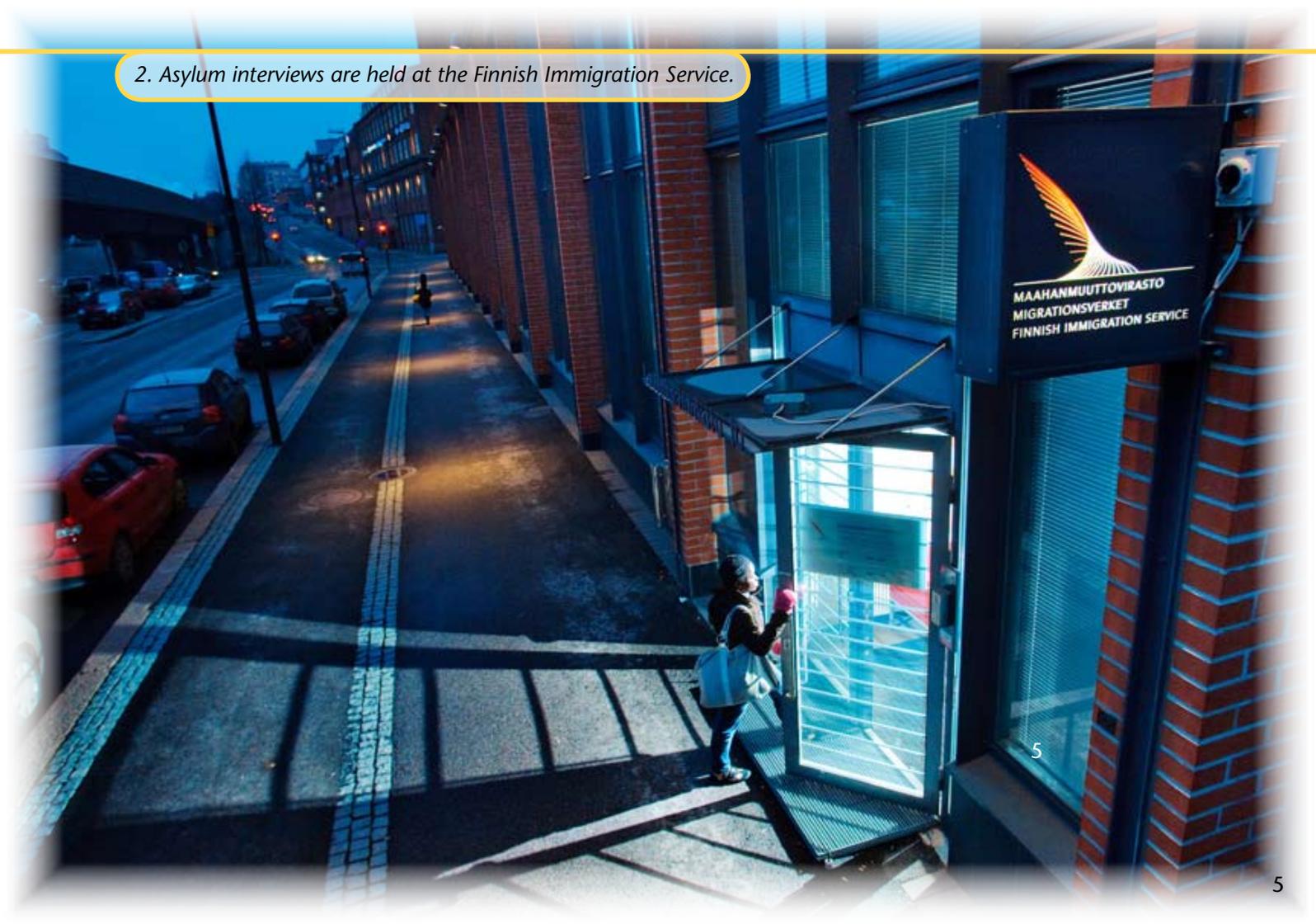
The interview may last all day. There will be regular breaks, and you can request additional breaks if you need to. It is important that you have a good breakfast and lunch during the lunch break so that you are able to focus in the interview.

This illustrated brochure is designed to help you familiarise yourself with the interview process.

1. Each asylum seeker whose asylum claim is processed in Finland is interviewed by the Finnish Immigration Service. Before that, the police authority will have interviewed you to establish your identity and travel route.



2. Asylum interviews are held at the Finnish Immigration Service.



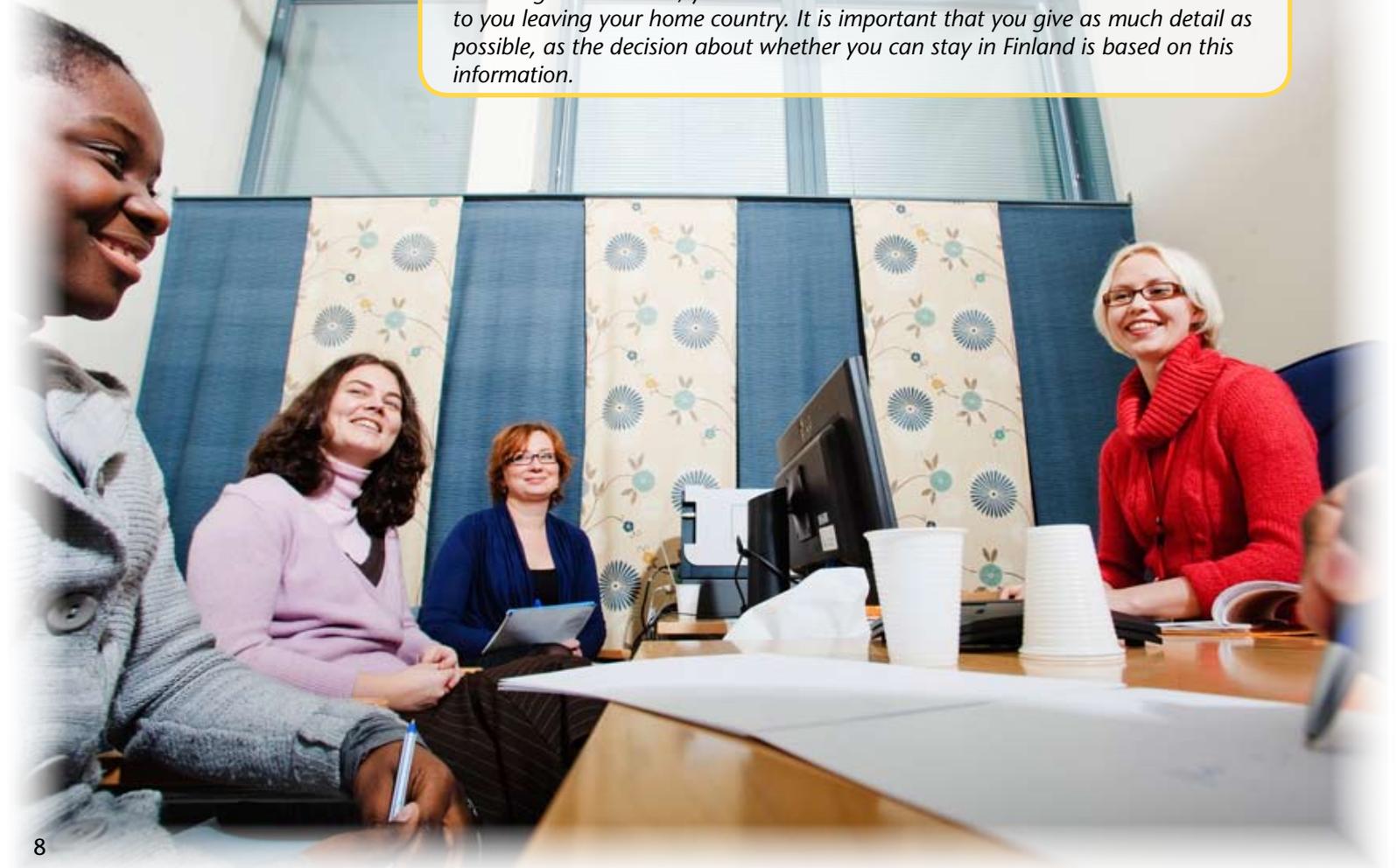
3. On arrival, you will report to reception and show the interview invitation. Your representative will accompany you.



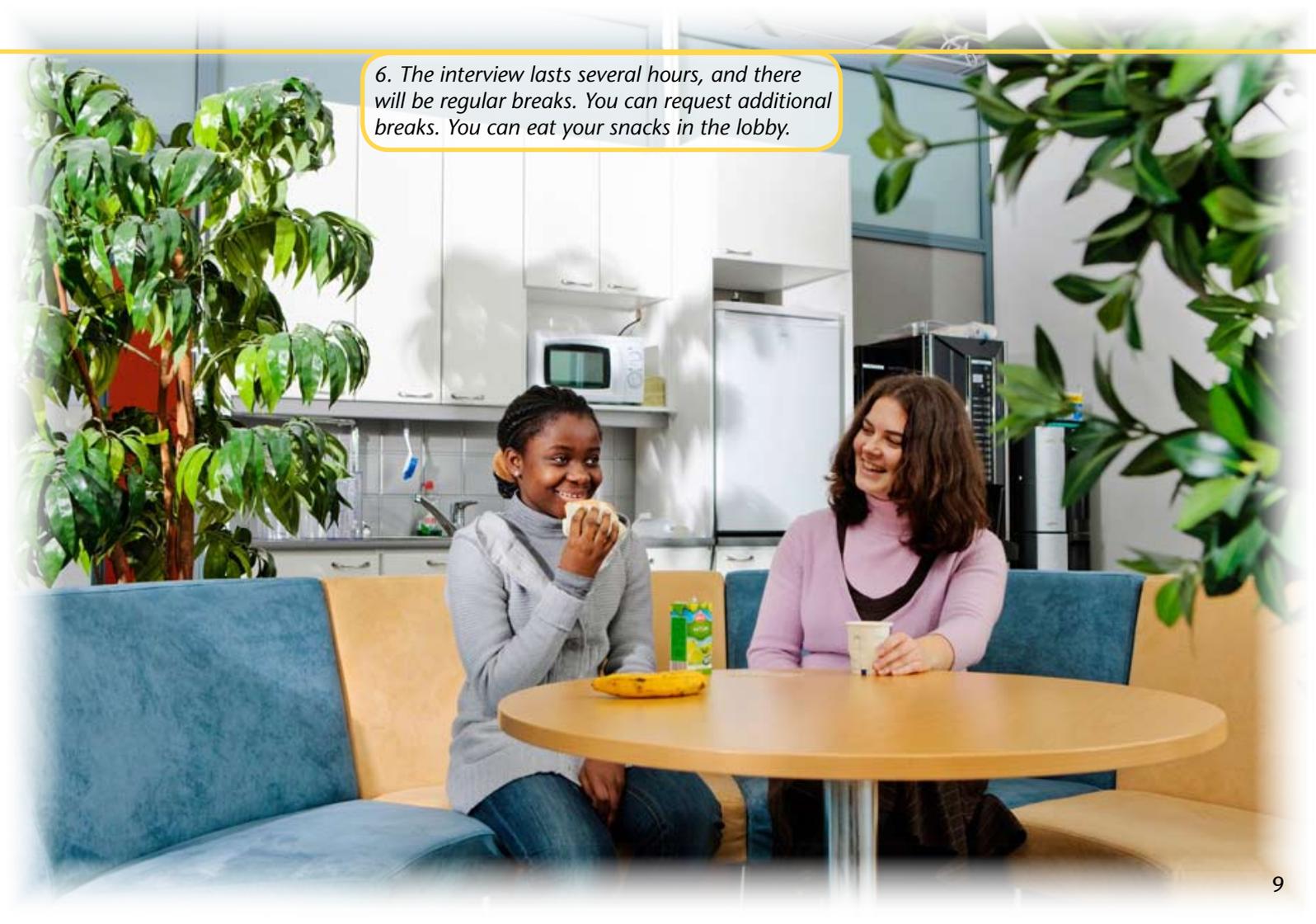
4. You will wait in the lobby until the interviewer invites you in. An interviewer, an interpreter and the representative are always present in the interviews of unaccompanied children. A lawyer, social worker or another person who is important to you may also attend if necessary.



5. During the interview, you will be asked about the events and reasons which led to you leaving your home country. It is important that you give as much detail as possible, as the decision about whether you can stay in Finland is based on this information.



6. The interview lasts several hours, and there will be regular breaks. You can request additional breaks. You can eat your snacks in the lobby.



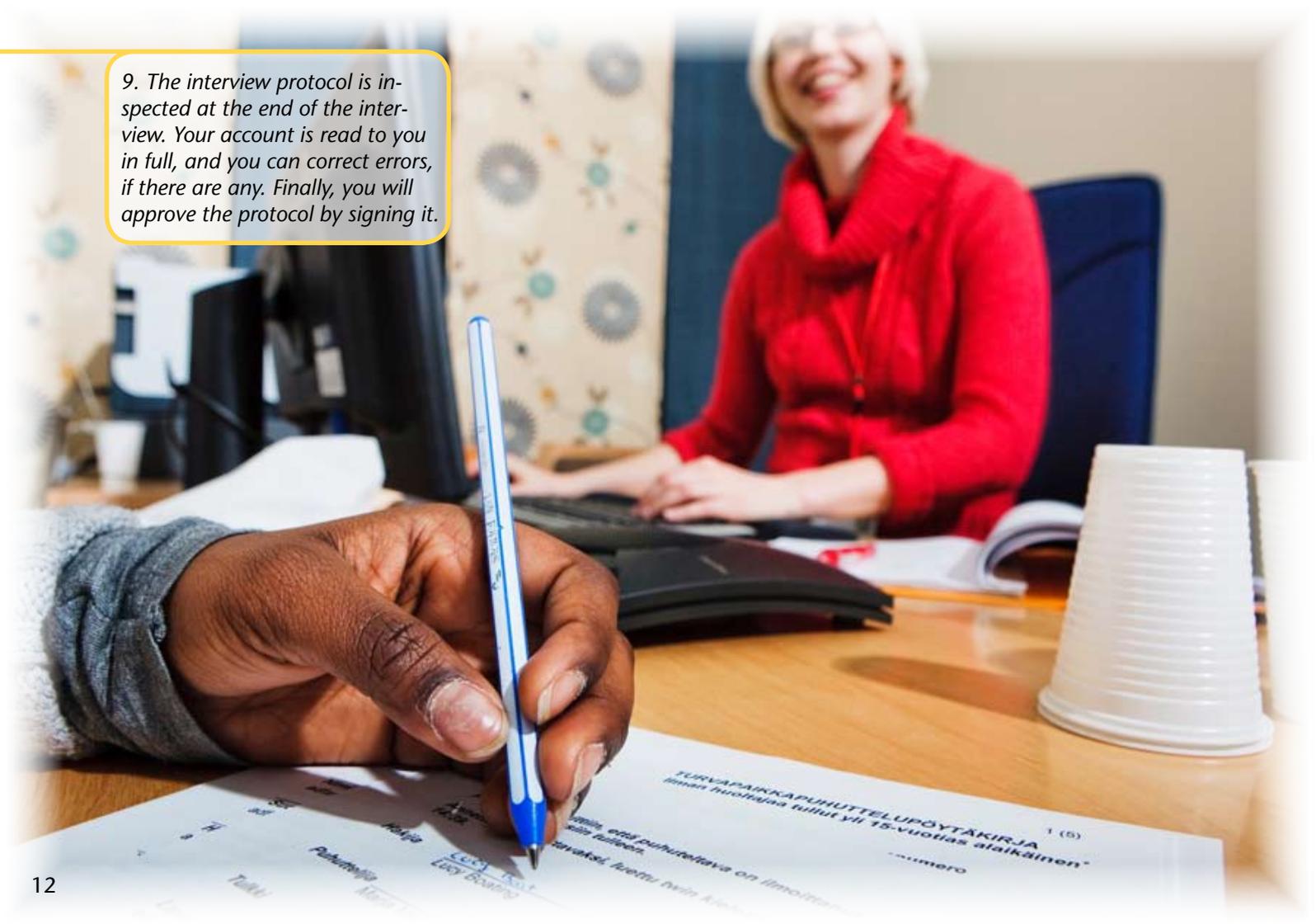
7. All information you give during the interview is confidential, and none of the participants are allowed to pass on to outsiders anything they hear in the interview.





8. *There will be a lunch break. It is important that you have a proper lunch, as the interview may last all day.*

9. The interview protocol is inspected at the end of the interview. Your account is read to you in full, and you can correct errors, if there are any. Finally, you will approve the protocol by signing it.





10. When the interview is over, your representative will receive a copy of your interview protocol. The Finnish Immigration Service will make a decision about your case. It will be done as soon as possible, but it may take a long time.



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