Sponsorship Form for Religious Workers
for applications under work and residence instructions

Additional sections of the form that must be completed, and the evidence required to be submitted with this form, will depend on whether the applicant is applying for a work visa or a resident visa.

Completing this sponsorship form does not mean that the application of the person(s) your organisation is sponsoring will be approved. Applicants must meet all the requirements of the category they are applying under before they will be granted a visa.

Sponsoring an applicant for a work visa

When your organisation agrees to be a sponsor of an applicant for a Religious Worker visa under work instructions, it undertakes and agrees to:

• make sure the sponsored person, and any dependent child(ren), if applicable, have financial support for two years from the religious worker’s first day as a Religious Worker work visa holder in New Zealand (maintenance costs like food, clothing and health care – things necessary for their health and welfare), and
When filling in this form, please write clearly using CAPITAL LETTERS.

- make sure the sponsored person and any dependent child(ren), if applicable, have suitable accommodation for two years from the religious worker’s first day as a Religious Worker work visa holder in New Zealand, and
- guarantee to provide the cost of a return airfare for repatriation for the sponsored person, dependent child(ren), if applicable, and/or the sponsored person’s partner if they are applying for a temporary visa that relies on the Religious Worker work visa application, and
- guarantee to provide for the cost of a return airfare for deportation, if necessary, for the sponsored person, dependent child(ren), if applicable, and/or the sponsored person’s partner if they are applying for a temporary visa that relies on the Religious Worker work visa application. Costs associated with deportation may include costs to locate, detain and/or maintain the persons being deported, and/or travel costs.

The sponsoring organisation does not necessarily have to meet the costs of maintenance, accommodation and repatriation directly. However, if these costs are not funded by other means, the sponsoring organisation is responsible for covering them for the duration of the sponsorship period. If any debts are incurred to the Crown or a third party because these costs are not covered, the sponsoring organisation will be held liable.

If you do not meet these undertakings, the visa holder may be liable for deportation.

As well as agreeing to these sponsorship undertakings, a potential sponsor must also provide:

- evidence of financial ability to meet the sponsorship undertakings, and
- an employment agreement or description of the religious work.

Sponsoring an applicant for a resident visa

When your organisation agrees to be a sponsor of an applicant for a Religious Worker resident visa, it undertakes and agrees to:

- make sure the sponsored person and any other person included in their application for residence have financial support for at least five years from the religious worker’s first day as a Religious Worker resident visa holder in New Zealand (maintenance costs like food, clothing and health care – things necessary for their health and welfare), and
- make sure the sponsored person and any other person included in their application for residence have suitable accommodation for at least five years from the religious worker’s first day as a Religious Worker resident visa holder in New Zealand, and
- guarantee to provide the cost of a return airfare for repatriation for the sponsored person and any other person included in their application for residence, and
- guarantee to provide for the cost of a return airfare for deportation, if necessary, for the sponsored person and any other person included in their application for residence. Costs associated with deportation may include costs to locate, detain and/or maintain the persons being deported, and/or travel costs.

The sponsoring organisation does not necessarily have to meet the costs of maintenance, accommodation and repatriation directly. However, if these costs are not funded by other means, the sponsoring organisation is responsible for covering them for the duration of the sponsorship period. If any debts are incurred to the Crown or a third party because these costs are not covered, the sponsoring organisation will be held liable.

If your organisation does not meet these undertakings, the visa holder may be liable for deportation.

As well as agreeing to these sponsorship undertakings, a potential sponsor must also provide:

- evidence of financial ability to meet the sponsorship undertakings, and
- evidence to demonstrate that they have a genuine and long term need for a religious worker, and
- an employment agreement or description of the religious work.

Who qualifies for a work visa under Religious Worker instructions?

Non-New Zealand citizens or non-residence class visa holders who:

- have qualifications and/or experience in religious work for two or more years, and
- have genuine New Zealand-based religious work sponsored by a registered charitable organisation whose primary purpose is advancing religion, and
- have not previously held more than one Religious Worker work visa, and
- are healthy and of good character, and
- not be an ‘officer’ or ‘nominated person’ of the religious organisation that is sponsoring them.

See our Work Visa Guide (INZ 1016) for further details.
Who qualifies for a resident visa under Religious Worker instructions?

Non-New Zealand citizens or non-residence class visa holders who:

• have held a work visa granted under Religious Worker instructions for a period of at least three years, and
• have qualifications and/or experience in religious work for five or more years, and
• have genuine, ongoing New Zealand-based religious work sponsored by a registered charitable organisation whose primary purpose is advancing religion, and
• are aged 55 years or younger at the time they apply for residence, and
• meet the minimum English language requirements, and
• are healthy and of good character, and
• not be an ‘officer’ or ‘nominated person’ of the religious organisation that is sponsoring them.

See our Self-Assessment Guide for Residence in New Zealand (INZ 1003) for further details.

What happens if your organisation does not honour the sponsorship?

If your organisation fails to carry out their responsibilities as a sponsor (a breach of sponsorship undertakings), the sponsored person will be in breach of their visa conditions and may become liable for deportation.

If your organisation fails to carry out their responsibilities as a sponsor, and the sponsored person incurs costs to the New Zealand Government or a third party to cover any part of their maintenance, accommodation or return travel (or deportation), your organisation will be responsible for repaying those costs.

If your organisation fails to repay the costs incurred by the sponsored person, a debt for the amount of those costs will then be due to the New Zealand Government or the third party. This debt may be enforced against your organisation in the New Zealand courts. This debt will remain your organisation’s responsibility until it is repaid, even if the sponsored person is no longer in New Zealand, is in New Zealand unlawfully, or has a new visa.

If your organisation breaches their sponsorship undertakings (whether there is a debt or not), they may not be able to sponsor again in the future.

Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007

Under the Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007 it is an offence to provide immigration advice without being licensed or exempt. If your immigration adviser is not licensed when they should be, Immigration New Zealand will return your sponsorship form.

For more information and to view the register of licensed advisers, go to the Immigration Advisers Authority website www.iaa.govt.nz, or email info@iaa.govt.nz.

Lawyers provide immigration advice and are exempt from licensing under the Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007. For more information and to view the register of immigration lawyers, go to the New Zealand Law Society website www.lawsociety.org.nz.

When filling in this form, print clearly in English using CAPITAL LETTERS.
Sections A to F must be completed by the contact person authorised to make representations and enter into agreements on behalf of the sponsoring organisation.

Section A  Applicant’s details

A1 Name of visa applicant being sponsored.
Family/last name ___________________________ Given/first name(s) ___________________________

A2 Applicant’s date of birth ________ ________ ________
A3 Applicant’s gender
☐ Male ☐ Female

A4 Applicant’s country of birth ___________________________

A5 Applicant’s citizenship ___________________________

A6 What type of visa is the applicant applying for? Tick one of the options below.
☐ A temporary entry work visa under Religious Worker instructions.
☐ A resident visa under Religious Worker instructions. Go to A7

A7 Are you sponsoring a dependent child/children of the applicant detailed at A1?
☐ Yes Go to A8
☐ No Go to Section B: Sponsoring organisation’s details.

A8 Name(s) of dependent child/children being sponsored by you.

Dependent child one
Family/last name ___________________________ Given/first name(s) ___________________________
Child’s date of birth ________ ________ ________

Dependent child two
Family/last name ___________________________ Given/first name(s) ___________________________
Child’s date of birth ________ ________ ________

Dependent child three
Family/last name ___________________________ Given/first name(s) ___________________________
Child’s date of birth ________ ________ ________
### Section B  Sponsoring organisation’s details

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B1</strong></td>
<td>Name of the sponsoring organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B2</strong></td>
<td>Name of the sponsoring organisation as it is registered with Charities Services</td>
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<td><strong>B3</strong></td>
<td>Charities Services registration number</td>
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<td><strong>B4</strong></td>
<td>Date of registration with Charities Services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B5</strong></td>
<td>Membership size of the sponsoring organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B6</strong></td>
<td>Name of the contact person for the sponsoring organisation</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>B7</strong></td>
<td>Contact person’s date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B8</strong></td>
<td>Position or title in sponsoring organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B9</strong></td>
<td>Name and address for communication about this sponsorship form.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Physical address**
- **Postal address**

- **Telephone (daytime)**
- **Telephone (evening)**
- **Fax**
- **Email**

- **Same as address at B8 or as below.**
- **Name**
- **Company name (if applicable) and address**

- **New Zealand Business Number (if applicable)**

*For help search: [www.nzbn.govt.nz](http://www.nzbn.govt.nz)*
Have you received immigration advice on this sponsorship form?

Yes  Make sure that your immigration adviser completes Section G: Immigration adviser’s details.
No

Section C  Sponsor eligibility

C1 Has your organisation or any of its listed directors, trustees or management been convicted of an offence(s) under immigration law?
  Yes  No

C2 Does your organisation have an outstanding debt to the Crown or other third parties as a result of another sponsorship arrangement?
  Yes  No

C3 Is your organisation in receivership or liquidation?  Yes  No

Section D  Religious work details

Provide details of the position your organisation is offering the applicant named in this application. If you have an employment agreement or a description of the work that already contains all of the information below, it can be attached to this form. In this case you do not need to complete the section below. If any information requested below IS NOT covered in the employment agreement or description of the work please complete the relevant questions.

D1 Position title

D2 What is the address of the place of work?

  Same as address at B7, or  Same as address at B8, or  As below

  Company name (if applicable) and address

  New Zealand Business Number (if applicable)  For help search: www.nzbn.govt.nz

D3 Describe the type of primary religious work, duties and responsibilities the person you are sponsoring will undertake.

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

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__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
D4 Describe the type of secondary work, duties and responsibilities the person you are sponsoring may undertake.

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________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D5 What is the duration of the primary religious work?

From ______/____/____ to ______/____/_____ or period of time in months/weeks/years

Section E Sponsorship undertakings

E1 What type of application is your organisation sponsoring?

☐ Work visa application. Go to E2

☐ Resident visa application. Go to E3

E2 Work visa application: Sponsoring organisation’s undertakings

______________________________________________________________ (authorised contact person’s name),

undertakes to meet the requirements for maintenance, accommodation and repatriation or deportation costs, if necessary, of the applicant and any dependent children named in this form at Section A: Applicant’s details, for the two years following their arrival in New Zealand.

E3 Resident visa application: Sponsoring organisation’s undertakings

______________________________________________________________ (authorised contact person’s name),

• undertakes to meet the requirements for maintenance, accommodation and repatriation or deportation costs, if necessary, of the applicant named in this form at Section A: Applicant’s details, and any other person included in their application for residence, for the five years following the grant of their resident visa, and

• agrees that if the applicant named in this form at Section A: Applicant’s details, or any other person included in their application for residence, applies to the Ministry of Social Development for, or is paid, any welfare assistance during the five-year period their residence is sponsored:

• INZ may provide any information that the organisation has provided in this application form to the Ministry of Social Development for the purposes of assessing whether the sponsored person, or any other person included in their application for residence, should receive welfare assistance, and

• the Ministry of Social Development may provide INZ with any information it receives regarding the organisation’s failure to meet any obligations as set out below.

Note: Under section 55 of the Immigration Act 2009, in the event of a sponsor failing to comply with the whole or any part of the above undertakings:

• the sponsor shall be liable to pay the Crown or a third party all costs and expenses reasonably incurred in respect of that failure

• the visa holder shall be deemed to have breached the conditions of his or her visa and may be liable for deportation.
Section F  Declaration by sponsor

This declaration must be witnessed by a person authorised to take statutory declarations, such as a Justice of the Peace, a lawyer, or a notary public. Make sure that you understand the declaration before you sign this section. The full name of the sponsoring organisation must be given for each of the undertakings below, but the declaration must be signed by the authorised contact person.

I understand that if I have received immigration advice from an immigration adviser and if that immigration adviser is not licensed under the Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007 when they should be, INZ will return my sponsorship form.

I, _______________

authorised contact person's name

of _______________

name of sponsoring organisation

______________________________

sponsor’s address

solemly and sincerely declare that:

• that the information supplied in this form and in the attachments is true and correct, and
• that the organisation will honour the sponsorship undertakings given in Section E: Sponsorship undertakings in respect of the person(s) named in Section A: Applicant’s details who the organisation has agreed to sponsor in this form.

I acknowledge that I will be liable for any reasonable cost(s) incurred by the Crown or a third party as a result of failing to honour the sponsorship undertakings given in Section E: Sponsorship undertakings, and that those costs may be recoverable in the New Zealand courts.

I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.

Signature of authorised contact person

Declared at ________________

place  this __________ day of __________  20__

before me ________________

(name of person authorised to take statutory declarations) (official designation)

Signature of person authorised to take statutory declarations

Contact details of person authorised to take statutory declarations. (Note: Any information you provide will be used for verification purposes only. Contact your nearest Immigration New Zealand office for more information, or to access or correct any information you have provided.)

Address ________________

Telephone (daytime) ________________ Telephone (evening) ________________

Fax ________________ Email ________________

Signature of person authorised to take statutory declarations
Section G  Immigration adviser’s details

This section must be completed by the sponsor’s immigration adviser. If the sponsor does not have an immigration adviser, this section does not have to be completed.

G1  Tick the one option that applies to you.

☐ I am a licensed immigration adviser under the New Zealand Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007. Go to G2

☐ I am exempt from licensing under the New Zealand Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007. Go to G3

If you are unlicensed when you should be licensed under the Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007, Immigration New Zealand will return your client’s sponsorship form. It is an offence to provide immigration advice without holding a licence, unless you are exempt.

G2  Licensed advisers. Provide your licence details.

Licence type
☐ full  ☐ provisional  ☐ limited. List conditions specified in the register.

__________

Licence number 20__________ Go to Section H: Declaration by person helping the sponsor to complete this form.

G3  Exempt from licensing. Tick one box below to show why you are exempt from licensing.

☐ I provided immigration advice in an informal or family context only, and I did not provide the advice systematically or for a fee.

☐ I am a New Zealand member of Parliament or member of their staff and I provided immigration advice as part of my employment agreement.

☐ I am a foreign diplomat or consular staff.

☐ I am an employee of the New Zealand public service and I provided immigration advice within the scope of my employment agreement.

☐ I am a lawyer and I hold a current practising certificate as a barrister or as a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.

☐ I am employed by, or I am working as a volunteer for, a New Zealand community law centre where at least one lawyer is on the employing body of the community law centre or is employed by or working as a volunteer for the community law centre in a supervisory capacity.

☐ I am employed by, or I am working as a volunteer for, a New Zealand citizens advice bureau.

Go to Section H: Declaration by person helping the sponsor to complete this form.
### Section H  Declaration by person helping the sponsor to complete this form

This section must be completed and signed by the sponsor’s immigration adviser, or by any person who has assisted the sponsor by providing immigration advice, explaining, translating, or filling in the form for the applicant. If the sponsor does not have an immigration adviser, and no one helped the sponsor to fill in this form, this section does not have to be completed.

*If you are unlicensed when you should be licensed under the Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007, Immigration New Zealand will return your client’s sponsorship form. It is an offence to provide immigration advice without holding a licence.  
*For more information, go to the Immigration Advisers Authority website [www.iaa.govt.nz](http://www.iaa.govt.nz), or email info@iaa.govt.nz or write to them at PO Box 6222, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141, New Zealand.

Name and address of person assisting sponsor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>☐ Same as address given at B7</th>
<th>☐ Same as address given at B8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Family/last name** | **Given/first name(s)**
|---------------------|---------------------|

**Company name (if applicable) and address**

**New Zealand Business Number (if applicable)**

For help search: [www.nzbn.govt.nz](http://www.nzbn.govt.nz)

**Telephone (daytime)** | **Telephone (evening)**
|------------------------|------------------------|

**Fax** | **Email**
|-----------|-----------|

I understand that after the sponsor has signed this form it is an offence for me to change or add further information, change any documents attached to the form, or attach any further documents to the form. However, if changes are needed, the person making the changes must state on the form what information or documents have been changed or attached and give reasons for the changes or attachments.

I note that the maximum penalty for this offence is a fine of up to NZ$100,000 and/or a term of imprisonment of up to seven years.

I certify that the sponsor asked me to help them complete this form and any additional forms. I certify that the sponsor agreed that the information provided was correct before signing the declaration.

☐ I have assisted the sponsor as an interpreter/translator.

☐ I have assisted the sponsor with recording information on the form.

☐ I have assisted the sponsor in another way. *Specify* ________________________________

☐ I have provided immigration advice (as defined in the Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007) and my details in Section G: Immigration adviser’s details, are correct.

**Signature of person assisting**

__________________________________________  **Date** ____________

---
About the information you provide

Deciding whether you are eligible to be a sponsor

The information on this form is collected to determine the eligibility of the organisation to be a sponsor of an applicant for a visa under the Religious Worker Work or Residence instructions, and to ensure that the organisation meets its sponsorship obligations should the person being sponsored be granted a visa to be in New Zealand.

The main recipient of the information is Immigration New Zealand but it may also be shared with other Government agencies, which are entitled to this information under applicable legislation.

Collecting this information is authorised by the Immigration Act 2009 and the Immigration Regulations made under that Act. You do not have to provide the information, but if you do not then the sponsored person’s visa may be declined.

You are able to ask for the information we hold about you and have any of it corrected if you think it is necessary. The address of Immigration New Zealand is PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140, New Zealand. This is not where the application should be sent.

What to do next

When the form is completed, check that the sponsor’s declaration has been signed by the appropriate person(s), and duly witnessed by a person authorised to take statutory declarations (such as a Justice of the Peace, a lawyer, or a notary public).

Ensure the supporting organisation has attached the evidence specified in the application checklist. Attach any evidence then give the form and any attachments to the applicant to include with their application for a visa.