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**Archived:** June 2, 2025 2:52:03 PM
**From:** Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
**Sent:** Wed, 26 Mar 2025 18:22:26
**To:**
**Cc:** Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
**Subject:** TR: Spousal Sponsorship Processing Times - By location or by program? - REP-2025-0628 - Due 21-03-2025
**Importance:** Normal
**Sensitivity:** None

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Good day,

[redacted] **Immigration Representatives Mailbox**

**Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries but have provided the following information as guidance.. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit the** IRCC Web form.

Please see our response to your question:

As per the Complete Guide (IMM5289), there are two classes of spousal sponsorship applications:

- Family Class
- Spouse or Common-Law Partner in Canada Class (SCLPC)

Apply under the **Family Class** if:

- the person being sponsored lives outside Canada
- the person being sponsored currently lives with the sponsor in Canada but doesn't plan to stay in Canada while the application is being processed
- the sponsor plans to appeal if the application is refused
- the person being sponsored is a conjugal partner or dependent child

Apply under the **Spouse or Common-Law Partner in Canada Class** if the spouse or common-law partner being sponsored:

- lives with the sponsor in Canada
- has valid temporary resident status in Canada, or is exempt from needing this status under a public policy

Processing times are based on the class under which the application was submitted. That is, selecting [redacted] partner, or conjugal partner living outside of Canada" will show processing times for those applying under the overseas family class. Whereas selecting "Spouse or common-law partner living inside Canada" will show processing times for those applying under the Spouse or Common-law partner in Canada Class (SCLPC).

Processing times for applications to sponsor a spouse, common-law partner, or conjugal partner under the family class are [redacted] 11 [redacted] for applicants [redacted] for [redacted] processing [redacted] the person being sponsored under the family class is in Canada (outside Quebec), or lives outside of Canada (but intends to live in a province or territory other than Quebec upon arrival).

Processing times for applications to sponsor a spouse or common-law partner under the SCLPC are currently 24 months for those destined for a province or territory other than Quebec.

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We encourage clients to consult Check processing times at IRCC - Canada.ca for up to date information on processing times, including for information on how processing times are calculated, by clicking on "How we calculated this processing time" at the bottom of the page.

We hope you find this information useful.

Thank you,

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox (IRCC)

**From:**
**Sent:** [redacted] 21, 2025 2:10 PM
**To:** Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration [redacted]
**Subject:** Spousal Sponsorship Processing Times - By location or by program?

Hello,

The spousal sponsorship processing times (see below) are noted with an in-Canada scenario and an overseas scenario.

However, it is noted that some applicants who are inside Canada can file for Family Class while remaining inside of Canada.

**Question**

Are the **processing times quoted based on the program used** - that is, are the in-Canada processing times (currently 28 months) for Spouse or Common-Law Partner in Canada Class (SCLPC) only **and** outside of Canada processing times are for Family Class (currently 10 months) only?

Or are **processing times quoted based on the location of filing**- that is, if an application (Family Class Spousal or SCLPC) is filed within Canada, the in-Canada processing times apply **and**, if Family Class application is filed overseas, the outside of Canada processing times apply?

Thank you!

Sincerely,

**Pages 1516 to / à 1517**
**are withheld pursuant to section**
**sont retenues en vertu de l'article**

**19(1)**

**of the Access to Information Act**
**de la Loi sur l'acces a l'information**