



Applying for a Carte de Séjour without a conventional address

Applying for a Carte de Séjour (CdS) is often a daunting experience. This guide is intended to help those people living in less conventional circumstances for whom the prospect may feel overwhelming.

Proof of residence is a standard element of the CdS application so how do you go about applying if you don't live in a bricks and mortar home?

Background to this guide

This guide needs to be read in conjunction with some of our other literature.

The information sheet '[There's no place like home](#)' outlines who is eligible to apply for a residence permit.

The bitesize guide to '[Legal residence in France under the withdrawal agreement](#)' goes into detail about all of the conditions of legal residence. Having a stable place of residence is one element of this.

There are many RIFT members who have succeeded in obtaining a CdS without a bricks and mortar home, and they've generously shared their experiences for the research of this guide.

EU law

Under EU law, there is no provision concerning the requirement for EU/EEA citizens to produce a proof of residence in order to apply for a residence permit.

Although a level of stability is essential, it is clear that a Titre de Séjour should not be refused based solely on the lack of a permanent address.

This [document](#)¹ (in French) by the Comité pour la santé des exilés (Comede) outlines the law relevant to people without a permanent address.

Therefore, there are ways and procedures for those living in France in different situations, to apply for a CdS.

Living afloat

For those with a permanent mooring, and those prepared to stay local, an attestation de domicile can be requested from the Capitainerie.

As moorings are hard to come by and being at anchor may be the only possibility, an attestation de mouillage could be requested.



Remain in France Together



Bitesize Guide

These requests would certainly be looked on more favourably if you were well known within the community, and could provide proof of lasting links.

One RIFT member was advised by the prefecture to remain locally, while building up his residence years towards a permanent card, to avoid different interpretations on his validity of residence if renewing at another préfecture.

Staying with friends and family

When you have a home, but your name is not on the rental agreement, the house deeds or the essential services bills, an attestation d'hébergement is required.

There is a standard form for an [attestation d'hébergement](#)² which can be printed from the French government website.

The form is completed by the householder, who also adds a copy of their passport, identity card or CdS and an essential services bill in their name.

This is your proof of residence.

Other circumstances

If living in a caravan, or a yurt on someone else's property, the attestations de domicile or d'hébergement may also be suitable.

If not, there is a further solution for an address in France.

Une demande de domiciliation des personnes sans domicile stable; a request for an address to receive mail, for those temporarily without one.

A request for this [service](#) can be made at the centre communal d'action sociale (CCAS) or the centre intercommunal d'action sociale (CIAS), or at the mairie in small towns without a CCAS or CIAS.

There are conditions that need to be met in order to apply. The conditions require a level of stability and investment in the local community, for example, to be employed or to be a parent of a school child within the commune.

If accepted, there is a time limit of 12 months as it's not meant to be long term, rather a stop gap to provide a temporary solution during a difficult period.



Remain in France Together

Bitesize Guide



References

The following links all point to official information sources:

1. This document (in French) by the Comité pour la santé des exilés (Comede) outlines the law relevant to people without a permanent address.
https://www.gisti.org/IMG/pdf/_maj_janvier_2015_note_comede_droits_des_personnes_sans_domicile_stable_de_faire_des_demarches_d_admission_au_sejour_en_prefecture.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2pOc1Lk85y1EohJpwR54LnqN26pPrfpvLbcNYa25XlgRYEQqySZPTV6Q
2. Standard form for an attestation d'hébergement.
<https://www.service-public.fr/simulateur/calcul/AttestationHebergement>
3. Information about the French government service to provide a postal address for people without a permanent address.
https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/affaires-sociales/lutte-contre-l-exclusion/article/domiciliation-des-personnes-sans-domicile-stable?fbclid=IwAR0Y49enX1nTPeMnpUztnOBks_Nx1czsX9URyUi93VB-QUCdcw9FFOBMxZo

Disclaimer

This is one of a series of guides and information sheets produced by Remain in France Together (RIFT). RIFT is a statutory association governed by French law and managed and run by volunteers. It exists to uphold the rights of British citizens living in, or moving to, France affected by the UK withdrawal from the EU.

The information is for general guidance and does not constitute legal advice. It is offered free for personal, non-commercial use.

The main source of information to keep up-to-date with developments in citizens' rights is our website <https://www.remaininfrance.fr/>

When using our printed guides, you should check the website to make sure that you have the latest version.

Original author/date: Julie Hall, May 2020

This guide was last updated: September 2020.



Except where otherwise noted, content in this guide is licensed under a Creative Commons [Attribution-NonCommercial NoDerivatives](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) 4.0 International license.