Arraigo extraordinario (2026 regularization)

Temporary residence authorizations for exceptional circumstances based on arraigo extraordinario

By **Aray Asociados Editorial Team** Published April 21, 2026

The content of this page is for informational purposes only. Only the provisions of the regulations in force at the time of the application submission are applicable.

DURATION AND RENEWAL	UPDATED
Initial validity of one year.	**November 14, 2026**

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01 Description

Temporary authorization aimed at foreign nationals in an irregular situation who were already in Spain before January 1, 2026.
It allows access to residence and work by proving labor ties, family ties or a situation of vulnerability.
The application can only be submitted until June 30, 2026.

02 Advantages

- Gives access to residence and work in Spain.
- Authorizes both salaried employment and self-employment anywhere in Spain.
- Provisionally authorizes work from the start of the procedure.
- May set aside expulsion or return (devolución) proceedings in certain cases.

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

- ✓ Foreign nationals of legal age in an irregular situation who were in Spain before January 1, 2026 and remain in the country at the time of application.
- ✓ The application is filed by the person concerned.

› **One of the following situations must be proven:**

- ✓ Employment relationship or intention to work.
- ✓ Cohabitation with a family unit in Spain under the applicable terms.
- ✓ Proven situation of vulnerability.
- ✓ Certain family members (spouse, registered partner or first-degree ascendants who live with the applicant) may apply simultaneously.

04 Requirements

- ✓ Be in Spain at the time of application.
- ✓ Not hold a residence or stay authorization.
- ✓ Continuous stay in Spain during the five months before applying.
- ✓ Have no criminal record under the required terms.
- ✓ Not represent a threat to public order, security or public health.
- ✓ Not be subject to an entry ban or a non-return commitment.

- ✓ Pay the corresponding fee.
- **Prove one of the following pathways:**
  - ✓ Employment activity or intention to work (job offer or signed self-declaration).
  - ✓ Family unit in Spain.
  - ✓ Vulnerability certified by the competent bodies.

05 Required documents

☐	Identity or travel document recognized in Spain (even if expired).
☐	Proof of stay in Spain during the five months before applying.
☐	Proof of payment of the fee.
☐	Criminal record documentation.
Depending on the access pathway:	
☐	Employment documentation, job offer or signed self-declaration.
☐	Documentation proving family unit and cohabitation.
☐	Vulnerability certificate issued by the competent bodies.

06 Application process

1. **Submission**
   Filed by the applicant with the competent office or online.
2. **Proof**
   Showing that the general requirements are met, together with one of the access pathways.
3. **Provisional authorization**
   Authorization to reside and work from the start of the process.
4. **Decision**
   Maximum period of 3 months; if no decision is issued, the application is deemed denied (silencio administrativo).

07 Duration and renewal

- Initial validity of one year.
- Allows both salaried employment and self-employment without restrictions.
- Before it expires, the holder must apply to switch (modificación) to another authorization.
- Exceptionally, it may be extended in certain cases.

08 FAQ

What is the deadline to apply?
Until June 30, 2026.

Is a work contract required?
No. A job offer, prior activity or intention to work as self-employed can be proven.

How long must you have been in Spain?
Continuous stay during the five months prior to the application is required.

Can you work while it is being processed?
Yes, from the start of the procedure.

What is the duration of the authorization?
One year.

Does it regularize my immigration status?
Yes, through the granting of a temporary residence authorization.

09 Applicable law

- Real Decreto 316/2026, de 14 de abril, por el que se modifica el Real Decreto 1155/2024, de 19 de noviembre, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento de la Ley Orgánica 4/2000, de 11 de enero, sobre derechos y libertades de los extranjeros en España y su integración social
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