IMMIGRATION

Arraigo familiar (family roots residence)

Temporary residence on exceptional grounds based on roots in Spain (arraigo familiar)

By **Aray Asociados Editorial Team** Published September 2, 2025

The content of this page is for general guidance only. Only the regulations in force at the time the application is filed apply.

DURATION AND RENEWAL	UPDATED
Initial term: 5 years.	**November 14, 2026**

Topics: Family reunification | Regularization

On this page

01 Description
02 Advantages
03 Who can apply? (including family members)
04 Requirements
05 Required documents
06 Application process
07 Duration and renewal
08 FAQ
09 Applicable law

01 Description

This is a temporary residence authorization granted on exceptional grounds based on roots in Spain (arraigo), under the family roots category (arraigo familiar). It is intended for foreign nationals who are in Spain and who are the parents or guardians of minors, or the relatives who provide support (in the exercise of legal capacity) to persons with disabilities, where those minors or persons with disabilities are nationals of another EU Member State, the EEA or Switzerland, and who meet the conditions set out in the Regulation. It does not cover parents of minors of Spanish nationality, who fall under a separate, specific regime.

02 Advantages

- 5-year term. Arraigo familiar is valid for five years.
- No visa. No visa is required, and the application is filed in Spain.
- Right to work. The authorization comes with permission to work as an employee or as a self-employed person, with no geographic or occupational restrictions (other than the legal minimum working age).
- No prior period of presence. No minimum period of presence in Spain is required for this category.

03 Who can apply? (including family members)

- ✓ Main applicant: A foreign national in Spain who is the father, mother or guardian of a minor who is a national of another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland and resides in Spain, where the applicant has the minor in their care and lives with them, or is up to date on their parental obligations; or a foreign national who is a relative providing support to a person with a disability who is a national of another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland, where the applicant has that person in their care and lives with them.
- ✓ Family members accompanying the applicant from the start: The Regulation does not provide for dependent family members to be included in this arraigo familiar application. (Separately, authorizations for foreign minors may be processed at the same time where appropriate.)

04 Requirements

- ✓ Scope: The application is filed in Spain, with no visa required.
- ✓ Prior status: You must not be seeking international protection at the time you apply for arraigo (or while it is being processed).

- ✓ Time spent in Spain: As a general rule, 2 years of continuous presence is required, but arraigo familiar is exempt from any minimum period of presence.
- ✓ Public order and criminal record: You must not pose a threat to public order, public security or public health; have no criminal record in Spain or in the countries where you lived during the 5 years before entering Spain; not be listed as inadmissible in countries with which Spain has an agreement to that effect; and not be within the period of a commitment not to return to Spain.
- ✓ Fees: Pay the processing fee.

05 Required documents

- ☐ Valid passport, registration document for undocumented foreign nationals (cédula de inscripción) or travel document (complete copy).
- ☐ Documents proving that you fall within one of the arraigo familiar situations (parent or guardian of an EU/EEA/Swiss minor residing in Spain, with the minor in your care and living with you, or with parental obligations up to date; or a relative providing support to an EU/EEA/Swiss person with a disability, with that person in your care and living with you).
- ☐ Criminal record certificate from the countries where you lived during the 5 years before entering Spain (with exemptions if you have remained in Spain continuously during those 5 years, or if you already provided it in a previous application and have not been absent since).
- ☐ Proof of payment of the fee.

06 Application process

1 **Filing in Spain (no visa)**

The foreign national files the application in person with the competent authority. If the applicant is a minor or a person with a disability who needs support, the application may be filed by their legal representative or by the person providing support.

2 **Submitting the documents**

Attach your passport, the documents proving your arraigo familiar situation and, as a rule, the criminal record certificate covering the 5 years before you entered Spain, subject to the exemptions provided.

3 **Review and decision**

The authorities may ask you to correct or complete your application. They obtain the report from Spain's Central Criminal Records Registry (Registro Central de Penados) on their own initiative and assess whether you pose any threat to public order, security or health. The authorization comes with permission to work as an employee or as a self-employed person.

4 **Applying for the TIE**

Within one month of being notified that the authorization has been granted, you must apply for the foreigner identity card (Tarjeta de Identidad de Extranjero, TIE).

07 Duration and renewal

Initial term: 5 years.

Renewal / extension: The Regulation does not set specific extension requirements for this category; the general extension rule in that chapter does not require any minimum period of presence for arraigo familiar.

08 FAQ

Who qualifies for arraigo familiar under the current rules?

Parents or guardians of a minor who is a national of another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland and resides in Spain, where they have the minor in their care and live with them or are up to date on their parental obligations; and relatives who provide support to a person with a disability who is a national of another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland, where that person is in their care and lives with them.

Is a visa required to apply?

No. The authorization does not require a visa, and you apply from within Spain.

Do I need to have spent a minimum amount of time in Spain?

No minimum prior period of presence is required for arraigo familiar.

How long is it valid, and can I work?

The authorization is granted for 5 years and allows you to work as an employee or as a self-employed person, with no geographic or occupational restrictions (other than the legal minimum working age).

Can I include my spouse or other family members in the same application?

The Regulation does not provide for dependent family members to be included in an arraigo familiar application; authorizations for foreign minors may be processed at the same time where appropriate.

When should I apply for the TIE after the authorization is granted?

Within one month of being notified that the authorization has been granted.

09 Applicable law

- Ley Orgánica 4/2000, de 11 de enero, sobre derechos y libertades de los extranjeros en España y su integración social.
- 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 (in force since May 20, 2025).

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