



## **Information – Entry into the Schengen area with Irish „Stamp 4 EU Fam“ residence permits**

**Persons holding a valid Irish residence permit (IRP) in the “Stamp 4 EU Fam” category do not require a visa** to enter the Schengen area (except Switzerland) or other EU Member States. According to the information available to us, this applies independently of whether or not the holder of the card is accompanied by the family member with EU citizenship.

According to Article 5 paragraph 2 of Directive 2004/38/EC, possession of a valid residence card as referred to in Article 10 of Directive 2004/38/EC exempts family members of EU citizens, who are not themselves EU citizens, from the visa requirement.

Please note: Directive 2004/38/EC is not applied by Switzerland, as it is not an EU member state. In addition, Schengen regulations do not apply, because Ireland is not part of the Schengen area. Therefore, a “Stamp 4 EU Fam” Irish residence permit does not entitle the holder to visa-free entry into Switzerland.

According to our understanding, the Irish residence permit (IRP) in the category “Stamp 4 EU Fam” is such a residence card according to Article 10 of Directive 2004/38/EC, if the reference “Family member EU Article 10 Directive 2004/38/EC” is included on the back.

The relevant regulations can be found on the website of the European Union: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32004L0038> (Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States).



The most important provision in this regard is Article 5, paragraph 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of Directive 2004/38/EC: “For the purposes of this Directive, possession of the valid residence card referred to in Article 10 shall exempt such family members from the visa requirement.”

In case of queries at border control, we recommend that you carry a printout of this information leaflet and any other relevant documents (e.g. documents proving your relationship to an EU national, such as a marriage certificate or birth certificate) with you when traveling.

Please note that this information sheet only provides some general information. Additional regulations may apply in individual cases. If you require further information regarding your specific situation, please feel free to contact us.

Note: The relevant border authorities decide on entry into the country and the Embassy Dublin has no influence on the decision of the border authorities.