

FREE GUIDE

QUICK SORTER

Which Stamp 4 Route Is Actually Yours?

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Start here

Read through the situations below and find the one that matches you. Each one points to the route that actually applies to your case.

- I hold a Critical Skills Employment Permit (CSEP): your route is Stamp 4 through the CSEP, generally after around 21 months of qualifying employment.
- I hold a General Employment Permit (GEP): your route is Stamp 4 through the GEP, generally after around 57 months of qualifying employment.
- I am married to, in a civil partnership with, or in a de facto relationship with an Irish citizen: your route is Stamp 4 as the spouse or partner of an Irish citizen.
- My spouse or partner holds a CSEP or GEP, but is not an Irish citizen: you likely hold, or will hold, Stamp 1G, not Stamp 4, a separate permission with its own path forward.

GOOD TO KNOW

CSEP and GEP are the most commonly confused pair: 21 months versus 57 months. Confirm which one applies to you before assuming a timeline.

If your spouse holds their own work permit rather than Irish citizenship, you do not receive Stamp 4 automatically.





If none of those fit yet

- My spouse or partner is an EU, EEA, or Swiss citizen (not Irish): your route is Stamp 4 EUFAM, under EU Treaty Rights, a different legal framework entirely, not standard Stamp 4.
- I am a parent of an Irish citizen child: this is assessed individually based on your ongoing involvement in your child's life, not a fixed formula.
- None of these fit, or more than one applies to me: this is common. Family situations often overlap, or change partway through, an employer change, a relationship change, a second nationality.

TIP

If more than one situation applies, or your circumstances have shifted partway through, that is exactly when a Strategy Session is worth booking rather than guessing.

WHY IT MATTERS

Two different permit types can sound similar but run on completely different timelines. Confirming your exact route first saves months of misdirected planning.

