

## INFORMATION FOR EU CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

**SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A VISA FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF A EUROPEAN UNION (EU) CITIZEN - implementation in Polish law of Directive No. territory of the EU countries” (“Journal of the EU L” of April 30, 2004).**

**Attention:** if you are a family member of an EU citizen, you are entitled to a privileged procedure for applying for a visa! Your application will be reviewed as quickly as possible, free of charge and based on a minimum set of documents. Check out the following information:

The procedure applies to foreign citizens traveling to another EU country, and not to the EU country of which the family member is a citizen, or who are already on the territory of this country.

**Example 1:** a citizen of Belarus has a wife - a citizen of Poland, living in Warsaw. A citizen of Belarus wants to join it. Given the fact that the wife of a Belarusian citizen lives in the country of which she is a citizen (she did not exercise the right to free movement within the EU), a Belarusian will not be served as a family member of an EU citizen.

**Example 2:** a citizen of Belarus has a wife who is a citizen of the Netherlands and lives in Warsaw. A citizen of Belarus wants to join it. Given the fact that the wife of a Belarusian citizen does not live in the country of which she is a citizen (she exercised the right to free movement within the EU), a Belarusian will be served as a family member of an EU citizen.

The visa application is considered free of charge. Persons wishing to obtain a visa are accepted at the consulate without prior registration as soon as possible.

EU citizens include citizens of EU member states, citizens of member countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) - parties to the agreement on the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein), citizens of Switzerland.

**Family members of an EU citizen include:**

- a) the spouse of an EU citizen,
- b) a direct descendant of an EU citizen or his spouse, under the age of 21, or a dependent of an EU citizen or his spouse,
- c) a direct ascendant of an EU citizen or his spouse who is dependent on an EU citizen, or his spouse.

To obtain a visa, you must submit the following documents:

- visa application form (filled in at <http://www.e-konsulat.gov.pl/> ), printed out, signed, with attached photo,
- valid passport (meeting the requirements),
- a document confirming that you are accompanying or traveling to an EU citizen.

**A visa will be refused if:**

- the entry of the applicant is planned during the period when he is included in the list of foreign citizens whose stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland is undesirable, or
- the stay of this person on the territory of the Republic of Poland may pose a threat to the defense capability and security of the state or to the protection of security and public order or public health.

The decision to refuse a visa is made by the consul. The applicant has the right to appeal against the decision of the consul to refuse to issue a visa by submitting an appropriate application to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**Legal grounds:**

- Law of July 14, 2006 "On entry into the territory of the Republic of Poland, stay and departure from its territory of citizens of the countries of the European Union and members of their families (Journal of Laws of August 11, 2006, art. 1525)[1].
- Law of December 12, 2013 "On Foreign Citizens" ("Journal of Laws" of December 30, 2013, art. 1650, as amended).
- Law of June 25, 2015 "Consular Law" ("Journal of Laws" of August 31, 2015, art. 1274).

[1] This law implements into Polish law Directive No. 2004/38/WE of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 29, 2004 "On the right of EU citizens and members of their families to free movement and residence in the territory of EU countries" ("Journal of Laws EU L" dated April 30, 2004).