



## Birth of a child in China to parents who are not married: Entry in the Swiss civil status register

November 2023

### Documents to submit to the competent Swiss representation in China

- Birth certificate (notarial certificate of birth), not older than 6 months, issued by a public notary and with apostille. The notarial certificate contains the translation and a copy of the original birth certificate.
- Passport copies of parents and if available passport copy of the child's foreign passport

Since 1 January 2014, China started to use a new version of the Medical Certificate of Birth. At the same time a new regulation was introduced that allows for children of at least one non-Chinese parent, to be registered with either a Chinese (Hànzi) or Latin name (Latin font). The family name of the newborn can be either from the father or from the mother.

Once the birth certificate has been issued, the information on it is determinant for the registration in the Swiss civil status register. The child's surname and first name must be translated into the Pinyin version for transcription to the Swiss civil status register.

If the parents decide to officially register their child with a Latin name, the Chinese parent may not be able to register the newborn in their Hukou in China. As a consequence, the child cannot apply for a Chinese passport, neither for further benefits (school etc.). However, strict application of this regulation may vary depending on province. In order for the child to enter and exit China with a Swiss passport, an "Entry and Exit"-booklet can be obtained at the competent Chinese authorities. For more information, please inquire with the local Hukou registration bureau.

The birth certificate (notarial certificate of birth) is submitted to the civil status authority concerned in Switzerland and must not be older than six months. It will not be returned. Additional documents may be required if necessary.

If the name of the father is registered on the birth certificate, this is automatically considered as recognition of paternity in China. Therefore, it is not necessary to submit any other documents besides the birth certificate to acknowledge paternity / confirm the child relationship. However, if only the mother is registered on the birth certificate, please contact us. In this case, we would need a notarial certificate of paternity acknowledgement, issued by a public notary and with apostille.

### Subsequent change of name after registration has taken place

The registered name in the Swiss civil register can only be changed by a formal decision of change of name. Therefore, parents have to submit a written request for the change of name to the attention of the competent authority at the place of origin in Switzerland of the Swiss parent. The letter must be written in a national language of Switzerland (and/or English) and signed by both parents. A change of name will only be granted if legitimate reasons are given. There is no guarantee that the civil authority body will grant the request.

**Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing**  
Sanlitun Dongwujie 3  
Beijing 100600, P.R. China  
Phone: +86 10 8532 88 88  
Fax: +86 10 6532 43 53  
[beijing.kanzlei@eda.admin.ch](mailto:beijing.kanzlei@eda.admin.ch)  
[www.eda.admin.ch/beijing](http://www.eda.admin.ch/beijing)

**Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai**  
22F, Building A, Far East Intl. Plaza  
319 Xian Xia Road  
Shanghai 200051, P.R. China  
Phone: +86 21 6270 0519  
Fax: +86 21 6270 0522  
[shanghai.consular@eda.admin.ch](mailto:shanghai.consular@eda.admin.ch)  
[www.eda.admin.ch/shanghai](http://www.eda.admin.ch/shanghai)

**Consulate General of Switzerland in Guangzhou**  
27th Floor, Kingold Century  
No. 62, Jinsui Road  
Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District  
Guangzhou 510623, P.R.China  
Phone: +86 20 3833 0450  
Fax: +86 20 3833 0453  
[guangzhou@eda.admin.ch](mailto:guangzhou@eda.admin.ch)  
[www.eda.admin.ch/guangzhou](http://www.eda.admin.ch/guangzhou)

### **Chinese parent who is not yet registered in the Swiss civil status register:**

If the Chinese parent is not yet registered in the civil status register, further documents are required:

- Birth certificate with names of the parents (notarial certificate of birth), issued by a public notary and with apostille
- Civil status certificate(s):
  - a) Declaration of your current civil status (affidavit), certified by a public notary and with apostille
  - b) Divorce certificate (notarial certificate of divorce), issued by a public notary and with apostille, if divorced at the Chinese civil registration office
  - c) Divorce decree, notarized by a public notary and with apostille, if divorced in court. In case of divorce by means of legal mediation by the court, a notarized certificate of legal effect with apostille must also be submitted.
  - d) Death certificate (notarial certificate of death) of the deceased spouse, issued by a public notary and with apostille, if widowed
- Certificate of residence, issued by a public notary and with apostille (certificate of current address and not a translation of the Hukou)
- Photocopy of a valid passport or identity card

If the parent concerned is not a Chinese citizen, please contact us.

The civil status documents are submitted to the civil status authority concerned in Switzerland and must not be older than six months. They will not be returned. Additional documents may be required if necessary.

### **Translation**

Documents that are not written in a Swiss national language (German, French or Italian) or in English must be translated.

### **Apostille**

Civil status documents must be provided with an apostille issued by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A list of Chinese Foreign Affairs Offices that issue apostilles can be found below.

### **Fees**

Entry of the birth and an entry of the foreign parent in the Swiss civil status register are free of charge.

### **Further information and request for Swiss identity documents**

Please register the birth of your child as soon as possible. A minimum of two months must be expected for the birth registration.

Once the birth has been entered in the civil status register, parents can order a Swiss passport and/or identity card via the website [www.schweizerpass.ch](http://www.schweizerpass.ch).

[https://www.ch-edoc-passantrag.admin.ch/#!/antraggesuch?request\\_locale=en](https://www.ch-edoc-passantrag.admin.ch/#!/antraggesuch?request_locale=en)

A Swiss identity document can only be ordered once the birth of the child has been entered in the Swiss civil status register or the child's Swiss citizenship has been confirmed.

For questions, you can contact the Swiss representation responsible for your place of residence / consular district.

## Foreign Affairs Offices

### Chinese Foreign Affairs Offices, which issue apostilles:

#### Consular district Beijing:

##### **Beijing Municipality**

(also issuing Apostilles for Ningxia, Tianjin, Tibet, Qinghai and Xinjiang)

Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs MFA  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Building B  
Fenglian Plaza, No. 18  
Chaoyangmenwai Street  
Beijing 100701  
Tel: 010 6588 9761

##### **Chongqing Municipality**

Chongqing Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 57, Honghu East Road  
Yubei District  
Chongqing 400015  
Tel: 023 6387 3733  
023 6362 6820

##### **Gansu Province**

Gansu Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 805, Nanchang Road  
Chengguan District  
Lanzhou 730030  
Tel: 0931 8720 709

##### **Guizhou Province**

Guizhou Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
No.172, Guanshan Xi Road  
Guanshanhu District  
Guiyang 550081  
Tel: 0851 8661 1599

##### **Hebei Province**

Hebei Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
Room 103, Building B  
Minxin Plaza Office Building  
Provincial Government Office  
No. 75 Shifan Street  
Shijiazhuang 050051  
Tel: 0311 8780 7336

##### **Heilongjiang Province**

Heilongjiang Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 300, Guoge Street  
Nangang District  
Harbin 150001  
Tel: 0451 5360 7560  
0451 5363 3973

##### **Henan Province**

Henan Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
No.15, Jingshui Road  
Jingshui District  
Zhengzhou 450003  
Tel: 0371 6568 8864

##### **Hubei Province**

Hubei Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 3, Bayi Road  
Wuchang District  
Wuhan 430071  
Tel: 027 8730 1852

##### **Jilin Province**

Jilin Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
1st floor, Provincial Government Affairs Hall,  
No. 9999 Renmin Street  
Changchun 130022  
Tel: 0431 8275 2831

##### **Inner Mongolia Province**

Inner Mongolia Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
Room 104, West Annex Building Building 8  
No. 63 Xinhua Street  
Hohhot 010098  
Tel: 0471 6946 380  
0471 6946 082

##### **Liaoning Province**

Liaoning Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
Qiyun Business tower  
No. 96-6, Huanghe South Street  
Huanggu District  
Shenyang 110032  
Tel: 024 2327 1077

##### **Shanxi Province**

Shanxi Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
2nd floor, No. 366 Yingze Street  
Yingze District  
Taiyuan 030001  
Tel: 0351 4083 617

##### **Shaanxi Province**

Shaanxi Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
North Hall, 3rd Floor  
Productivity Building, No. 1  
South Section of Huancheng  
East Road, Beilin District  
Xi'an 710048  
Tel: 029 8323 2980  
029 8241 8705

##### **Shandong Province**

Shandong Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 28-1, Qianfoshan East Road  
Lixia District  
Jinan 250014  
Tel: 0531 5177 8592  
0531 5177 8757

##### **Sichuan Province**

Sichuan Provincial Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 100, East 3rd Section  
1st Ring Road  
Chenghua District  
Chengdu 610021  
Tel: 028 8439 2778

**Yunnan Province**

Yunnan Provincial  
Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 230, Daguean Road  
Xishan District  
Kunming 650032  
Tel: 0871 6409 8094

**Changchun City**

Changchun Municipal FAO  
No. 3066, Nanhuancheng Road  
Nanguan District  
10th Floor, Building A  
Changchun Municipal People's  
Government Office Area 2  
Changchun 130022  
Tel: 0431 8877 5332

**Harbin City**

Harbin Municipal FAO  
No. 1 Century Avenue  
Songbei District  
Harbin 150028  
Tel: 0451 8466 4237  
0451 8466 4247

**Jinan City**

Jinan Municipal FAO  
7th Floor, Qianfoshan Building  
No. 15, Wenhua West Road  
Lixia District  
Jinan 250011  
Tel: 0531 8693 1248

**Qindao City**

Qingdao Municipal FAO  
T11 counter on the fourth floor  
of Qingdao Civic Center  
No.17 Fuzhou South Road  
Shinan District  
Qingdao 266071  
Tel: 0532 6620 0531

**Tianjin Municipality**

Tianjin Foreign Affairs Office  
Second floor, Guangyin Building  
Youyi North Road  
Hexi District  
Tianjin 300074  
Tel: 022 5878 5378  
(can only take in requests and  
transfer them to MFA in Beijing)

**Tibet Province**

Tibet Provincial  
Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 11, Linkuo North Road  
Lhasa 850000  
Tel: 0891 6328 433  
0891 6335 171  
(can only take in requests and  
transfer them to MFA in Beijing)

**Xinjiang Province**

Xinjiang Provincial  
Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 226, East Ring Road  
Tianshan District  
Urumqi 830001  
Tel: 0991 6176 788  
(can only take in requests and  
transfer them to MFA in Beijing)

**Qinghai Province**

Qinghai Provincial  
Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 14 Jiefang Road  
Xining 810000  
Tel: 0971 8249 837  
0971 8244 069  
(can only take in requests and  
transfer them to MFA in Beijing)

**Ningxia Province**

Ningxia Provincial  
Foreign Affairs Office  
No. 106, Fenghuang North Street  
Yinchuan 750001  
Tel: 0951 5044 617  
(can only take in requests and  
transfer them to MFA in Beijing)

**Consular district Shanghai:****Shanghai Municipality**

Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office  
Room 104, 1F  
Business Building  
Hotel Equatorial  
Huashan Rd. 228  
Jing'an District  
Shanghai 200040  
Tel: 021 6247 0833

**Jiangsu Province**

Jiangsu Provincial  
Foreign Affairs Office  
F Area, 2F, Jiangsu  
Provincial Government  
Affairs Service Center  
No. 145 Hanzhongmen Street  
Jianye District  
Nanjing 210000  
Tel: 025 8366 6440

**Zhejiang Province**

Zhejiang Provincial  
Foreign Affairs Office  
Counter 2-5, 2F, Zhejiang  
Foreign Communication  
Service Center  
No. 1 Shihan Rd.  
Xihu District  
Hangzhou 310007  
Tel: 0571 8705 4901-4

**Anhui Province**

Anhui Provincial  
Foreign Affairs Office  
Counter No.6, Business  
Hall No.1, 1F, Anhui  
Provincial Government  
Affairs Service Center  
No.509 Maanshan Rd.  
Baohu District  
Hefei 230002  
Tel: 0551 6299 9839

**Ningbo City**

Ningbo Municipal Foreign  
Affairs Office  
No.1901, Ningchuan Road  
Yinzhou District  
Ningbo 315101  
Tel. 0574 8718 7512

**Consular district Guangzhou:****Guangdong Province**

Foreign Affairs Office of the  
People's Government of  
Guangdong Province  
No.2, Youlin 1st Road, Chigang  
Guangzhou 510310  
Tel: 020 8121 9789  
020 8121 7589  
Fax: 020 8121 6029

**Fujian Province**

Foreign Affairs Office of Fujian  
Provincial People's Government  
97 Hua Lin Road, Gulou District  
Fuzhou 350003  
Tel: 0591 8781 5074

**Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region**

Foreign Affairs Office of Guangxi  
Zhuang Autonomous Region  
6 Yibin Road, Qingxiu District  
Nanning 530023  
Tel: 077 1559 5561  
077 1561 3250  
Fax: 077 1564 2584

**Hainan Province**

Foreign Affairs Office of Hainan  
Province  
No. 9 Guo Xing Avenue  
Haikou 570203  
Tel: 0898 6531 6350

**Hunan Province**

Foreign Affairs Office of Hunan  
Province  
3F, Xianghui Building  
No. 12 Shaoshanbei Road  
Furong District  
Changsha 410011  
Tel: 0731 8221 9825  
0731 8221 9830  
Fax: 0731 8221 7595

**Jiangxi Province**

Jiangxi Provincial Foreign Affairs  
Office  
157 Supu Road  
Nanchang 330006  
Tel: 0791 8628 1957  
Fax: 0791 8622 4679

**Shenzhen City**

Shenzhen Foreign Affairs Office  
Zone B, Citizen Center  
Fuzhong 3rd Road, Futian District  
Shenzhen 518000  
Tel: 0755 8812 0330  
0755 8812 0331