



Marriage to be performed in Switzerland

September 2022

Documents to submit in person to your Swiss representation

For Swiss citizens:

- copy of **certificate of current residence**, not older than six months (*for Swiss citizens registered in the registry of Swiss citizens living abroad, the competent Swiss representation can issue the certificate*)
- copy of the **marital status certificate**, not older than 6 months (*document can be ordered at the civil status office of the place of origin.*)
- valid **passport** or **identity card**

For citizens of other countries:

- original birth certificate*** (baptism certificates are not accepted)
- original current civil status record:
 - a) **non-marital certificate** or **non-impediment attestation**, not older than 6 months confirming the civil status
 - b) **divorce certificate*** and **court decision** (*issued by the competent court*)
 - c) **death certificate*** of deceased spouse/partner and **marriage certificate***
- valid ID card** confirming the residence
- valid passport**
- copy of form „Application for preparatory procedure for marriage“** filled in by the fiancé living in Switzerland

Certain documents may no longer be required if the person is already registered in the Swiss civil status register.

If one person is domiciled in Switzerland:

- copy of their **certificate of current residence** in Switzerland
- copy of their **valid passport** / identity card and **resident permit**
- declaration form concerning voluntary verification** of foreign civil status documents, duly dated and signed

For any joint children who are not yet entered in the Swiss civil status register:

- original birth certificate* establishing who the parents are
- original **acknowledgement of paternity** (*issued by the competent court*)
- valid passport or identity card, if already exists

For any joint children who are entered in the Swiss civil status register:

- copy of family certificate issued by the competent authorities in Switzerland
- copy of their valid passport or identity card

* All civil status documents have to be issued by the Vital Events Registration Agency

All documents must be submitted as **originals** upon appointment and should not be older than six months. Photocopies are not accepted. Certificates issued once only (e.g. birth certificates) will be returned after the verification.

Translation

All documents written in Amharic, Oromia or Tigrinya need to be translated into German, French, Italian or English by one of the Embassy's officially recognized translation offices (see list [here](#)).

Make sure the information on the documents is correct. Names in Amharic, Oromia, Tigrinya and English have to be written the same way on each document, including the passport.

Legalisation

All foreign civil status documents and court decisions must be legalised before being submitted to the Swiss representation by the

**Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Addis Ababa**

Thorough verification

As a rule, foreign civil status documents to be submitted must undergo a thorough verification of their authenticity by an approved law firm mandated. To this end, please submit the following to the Swiss representation:

- declaration form concerning voluntary verification of foreign civil status documents, duly dated and signed
- advance on the cost of your request for a thorough verification by a law firm approved by the Swiss representation

Additional documents may be required, depending on the conclusions of a lawyer's expert advice or the requirements of the authorities concerned in Switzerland.

The approved law firm mandated may take several months to verify the civil status documents thoroughly. The conclusions of the firm's advice are not binding on the civil status authority concerned.

Interpreter

When submitting the documents, the following forms will have to be filled in a Swiss national Language (D, F, I):

- Application for preparatory procedure for marriage
- Declaration concerning pre-conditions for entering into marriage

A template in English and Amharic is available as a translation aid. If the applicant's level of one of these languages is not adequate, the applicant is requested to bring along a translator from one of our recognized translation offices (see list [here](#)). The translator has to proof his identity by presenting a valid ID card with translation and/or passport.

Fees

The fees for this preparatory procedure amount to **CHF 305.00**

The costs resulting from the thorough verification of foreign civil status documents ranges between **CHF 120.00 – CHF 700.00** depending on the amount of documents and the region where the documents were issued. These fees have to be paid via an advance at the time of submission in ETB in cash.

A definitive statement of the actual costs will be drawn up at the end of this process.

Further information

Ethiopian nationals need a visa to travel to Switzerland or to take up residency. In the event of an intended relocation to Switzerland, the visa application should be submitted on the same day at the counters of Embassy of Switzerland in Addis Ababa. For detailed information, please consult the Embassy's [website](#).

Swiss nationals who are registered with this Embassy are requested to send a **copy of the marriage certificate** to this representation by e-mail, in order to update the Register of the Swiss abroad.

Changes in civil status which have taken place abroad are generally to be reported to the countries of origin of the partners. After the marriage, please contact the representation of Ethiopia in Switzerland to register the marriage in Ethiopia.