



After your marriage performed in India: entry in the Swiss civil status register

August 2023

Documents to submit

- Application for Preparation or Registration of Marriage
- original marriage certificate
 - Special Marriage Act (court marriage): Any couple, regardless of their religion, may marry under this Act. Any religious marriage (see list below) can be registered under this Act, provided that all the conditions of the religious ceremony are met under that particular Marriage Act. From the date of such registration, the marriage will be treated as a civil marriage.
 - Hindu Marriage Act: Under this Act *only* Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs may marry according to the rites and ceremonies applicable to their religion (e.g. a marriage of two Buddhists in an Arya Samaj Temple is void, conversion certificates are void). Both groom and bride have to be domiciled in India. If one partner resides abroad the marriage has to be registered under the Special Marriage Act.
 - Muslim Marriage (Nikah): A Muslim may marry another Muslim or a Christian or a Jewish person under this contract. The marriage needs to be registered under the Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, the Waqf Board or the Special Marriage Act.
 - Christian Marriage Act: Only Christians may marry under this Act.
 - Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act: Only Parsi may marry under this Act.
 - Certificate of the religious ceremony (Temple, Gurdwara, Mosque, Church) if applicable.

Please note that only a valid marriage can be registered in Switzerland and a mere Marriage Certificate does not automatically validate an invalid marriage.

- copy of a Swiss marital status certificate from the Swiss Citizen(s)
- copy of the valid passports

If one person is domiciled in Switzerland:

- copy of the certificate of current residence in Switzerland

For spouses who are not Swiss citizens:

- original birth certificate, issued by the Registrar of Births & Deaths, with the names of child and both parents (full names) ¹
- original civil status record **before** the marriage or registered partnership was performed:
 - a) Affidavit on a "Stamp Paper" (10 or 20 Rupee), issued by a Notary Public establishing that they have never been married ² *or*
 - b) court order (final judgement) and divorce decree *or*
 - c) death certificate of deceased spouse
- Affidavit on a "Stamp Paper" (10 or 20 Rupee), issued by a Notary Public confirming the residence at the time of marriage ²
- Visa D Form (in triplicate) ³
- Police Clearance Certificate for the Visa Application, issued from the local police station nearest to the place of residence of the applicant or the concerned passport office ³

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

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

Translation

Documents that are not in a Swiss national language or in English must be translated in English.

Legalisation

All foreign civil status documents have to be legalised by the Home Ministry of the state where the certificate had been issued. Thereafter they have to be legalised with an Apostille by the Ministry of External Affairs before being submitted to the Swiss representation. Please find the contact details of the Legalisation/Apostille offices here: <https://www.mea.gov.in/apostille.htm>

If you opt for a voluntary verification, a legalisation of the documents is not required.

Voluntary verification

Your official documents might have to be verified by the Swiss representation, which will take around 3-4 months. The decision to do so will be taken by the authorities in Switzerland after having received your file. The majority of cantons require a verification. In order to speed up the processing of your file, the Embassy can do this verification process before sending the file to Switzerland. 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
- questionnaire for the verification of civil status documents
- advance on the cost of your request for a voluntary verification (see "Fees" below)

Additional documents may be required, depending on the circumstances or the requirements of the authorities concerned in Switzerland.

Fees

Entry of the marriage in the Swiss civil status register is free of charge.

If you would like to do opt for a voluntary verification, an advance payment of INR 80'000 (CHF 1'000) is needed. An account statement of the expenses will be sent to you after completion of the process and the remaining balance will be reimbursed.

Further information

- Laminated documents are not accepted.
- Full names have to be written on the certificates. Abbreviations of names are not accepted. The name of one person should be the same on all the documents submitted.
- Once your file is complete, it will be forwarded to Switzerland within 2-3 weeks and the marriage will be registered in the Swiss central civil registry.

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¹ In the event where the birth has not been registered, an application for a "late registration" has to be made with the Registrar of Births & Deaths. In case the name of the child is not mentioned on the birth certificate, a supporting affidavit by the parents confirming name of the child has to be submitted. Please note, that a certificate of Baptism and / or a School (Transfer) can only be accepted as supporting documents and not as a substitute for the birth certificate.

² The following things have to be indicated on the Affidavit: full name(s) of the applicant, date and place of birth, nationality, place of residence (full address), full names of parents, civil status (clear description necessary, e.g. "never been married", "divorced since" or "widowed since" | Note: "unmarried", "single" etc. cannot be accepted).

³ Please note that if you wish to take up residence with your partner in Switzerland, you will also need to file an application for a national visa D at the Swiss representation. Your application will be processed at the cantonal migration office of your future place of residence in Switzerland. The estimated processing time for a visa D is 3 months.