



Marriage to be performed in Switzerland (marriage preparation)

June 2023

After having contacted the registry office of your desired place of marriage in Switzerland, the future bridegroom/bride with residence in the UK or Ireland must appear in person at the Regional Consular Centre London in order to sign the relevant documents.

Therefore, please request an appointment by sending an email to london.cc@eda.admin.ch including a scan of all documents required below.

Documents to submit in person to your Swiss representation

For Swiss citizens:

- valid passport or identity card
- original certificate of current residence (will be issued by us directly at your appointment)

For citizens of other countries:

- valid passport or identity card
- residence permit (if applicable)
- Birth certificate:** long version stating the names of both parents; newly issued original (no older than 6 months)
- Confirmation of residence and civil status single, divorced or widowed** (original, no older than 6 months):

for British nationals:

- **Single, divorced, dissolved registered partnership or widowed:** a certificate of no impediment to marriage CNI, issued by the local Superintendent Registrar; bearing the [apostille](#) of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office FCDO (paper version); no older than 6 months (validity of CNI issued in Scotland: 3 months). Important: place of residence has to be mentioned on the CNI.

for Irish nationals:

- **Single, divorced, dissolved registered partnership or widowed:** a [certificate of Freedom to Marry \(Civil Letter of Freedom\)](#) issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin, bearing the [apostille](#) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Ireland)

for other nationals (Non-British, Non-Irish, Non-Swiss):

- **Single:** [statutory declaration](#) confirming current marital status, nationality and place of residence; signed in the presence of a notary public or solicitor; bearing the [apostille](#) of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office FCDO (paper version); no older than 6 months
- **Divorced / dissolved registered partnership:**
 - 1) [statutory declaration](#) (see above);
 - 2) divorce decree absolute or dissolution of registered partnership decision that specifies when it entered into force; bearing the seal of the High Court of Justice/County Court – signed by a solicitor or notary public; bearing the [apostille](#) of the FCDO and
 - 3) completed [divorce questionnaire](#)
- **Widowed:** [statutory declaration](#) (see above) and certified copy of an entry of death (original document); photocopies cannot be accepted

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- Deed Poll of change of name**, if applicable. The document must bear the apostille of the [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office \(UK\)](#) or [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(Ireland\)](#)

For the fiancé who is not resident in the UK or Ireland:

- copy of their valid passport
- copy of their residence permit in Switzerland (if applicable)

Further Information

Important

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

The marriage can take place at the latest three months after the authorization from your place of marriage in Switzerland is issued. It is strongly recommended that applications for marriage preparation are submitted to the Regional Consular Centre at least three months before the marriage is to take place.

Documents not issued in the UK, Ireland or Switzerland may require prior legalisations from other Swiss representations, which might involve additional fees, expenses and processing time (in some cases several months).

After your appointment in London, the original documents (photocopies are not accepted) are submitted to the civil status authority concerned in Switzerland and must not be older than six months. The passports/identity cards and residence permits will be returned to you; however, **any other documents will not be returned to you**. Additional documents may be required, if necessary.

Please check with london.visa@eda.admin.ch directly, if you would need a visa.

If, after the marriage, the couple takes up residence in the United Kingdom, the Swiss partner must [register](#) with the Regional Consular Centre in London.

After your marriage: If you are a Swiss national and live in the UK or Ireland, please email a scan of your Swiss marriage certificate to london.cc@eda.admin.ch.

If you cannot communicate in a Swiss national language or in English, please ask the representation in advance if an interpreter is required. Any additional costs for the interpreter are at your expense.

Fees

The fees for the preparatory procedure are payable in GBP by card at the counter the day of the appointment (American Express cards are not accepted).

Please inform us if any of the required documents of the non-Swiss fiancé(e) were issued outside the UK, Ireland or Switzerland: an advance payment may be required for the verification/ legalization of the documents by the Swiss representation responsible for the country the documents were issued in. The process will take **several months**.

The fees and charges of the Civil Registrar and the Cantonal authorities for the preparation of the marriage and the marriage ceremony may vary. These fees have to be paid in Switzerland directly. For further information, please contact the Civil Registrar of your place of marriage directly.

Regional Consular Centre London
c/o Embassy of Switzerland in the United Kingdom
16-18 Montagu Place
London W1H 2BQ
Phone: +44 20 7616 6000, Fax: +44 20 7724 7001
london.cc@eda.admin.ch, www.eda.admin.ch/london

Where to obtain de documents

Birth certificate

Certified copy of an entry of birth / Extract of entry from a register of births

- England and Wales:** www.gov.uk/general-register-office
- Scotland:** www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/
- Northern Ireland:** <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>
- Ireland:** www.hse.ie

Marriage certificate

Certified copy of an entry of marriage / Extract of entry from a register of marriages

- England and Wales:** www.gov.uk/general-register-office
- Scotland:** www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/
- Northern Ireland:** <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>
- Ireland:** www.hse.ie

Divorce decree

- Court Administration where the divorce was finalized

Death certificate

Certified copy of an entry of death / Extract of entry from a register of deaths

- England and Wales:** www.gov.uk/general-register-office
- Scotland:** www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/
- Northern Ireland:** <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>
- Ireland:** www.hse.ie

Apostille

- Apostille by the [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office \(UK\)](#) or [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(Ireland\)](#) (paper version only; digital apostille or printed out digital apostille are not accepted)

For further information:

UK <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/united-kingdom/en/home/services/zivstand/heirat-eingetragene-partnerschaft/heirat-partnerschaft-ch.html>

Ireland <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/ireland/en/home/services/zivstand/heirat-eingetragene-partnerschaft/heirat-partnerschaft-ch.html>