



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

July 2022

Documents to submit

- Original Duplicate of the marriage certificate***, issued by the competent Marriage Registry, **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see page 2)
- Original birth certificate*** of the Zimbabwean spouse (Certified Copy of an Entry of Birth Registered in the district of ... in Zimbabwe"), issued by the Registrar General of Births and Deaths, **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see page 2)
- Photocopy of valid Swiss Passport or valid ID Card of the Swiss citizen
- Photocopy of valid Passport or ID card of the Zimbabwe spouse indicating the surname after the marriage
- If the Swiss citizen is a dual citizen: photocopy of Zimbabwe Passport or ID card indicating the surname after the marriage
- Marriage questionnaire, completed and signed by both partners

If the Zimbabwe spouse has been previously married or if widowed:

- Original Certified true copy of the original divorce certificate***, issued by the competent High Court, **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see page 2)
- Original Certificate of Death*** of the previous spouse, issued by the Registrar General of Births and Deaths, **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see page 2)

If the surname after marriage of the Swiss citizen is neither clearly indicated on the marriage/civil union certificate nor on any other official document, a **Declaration of Name** can be requested by the authorities of Switzerland. This declaration of name has to be completed and signed in person by both spouses at the competent Swiss representation.

The original certificates are submitted to the competent civil status authority in Switzerland and will not be returned (**photocopies or certified copies are not accepted**). Additional documents may be required by the Swiss civil status authority.

All documents marked with a * **must not be older than six months** (date of issue) at the time of their submission to the Regional Consular Centre (RCC).

Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa
225 Veale Street, New Muckleneuk, 0181 Pretoria
P.O. Box 2508, Brooklyn Square, 0075
Phone: +27 12 452 06 60, Fax: + 27 12 346 66 05
southernafrica@eda.admin.ch ; www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria

Translation

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

Legalization

The legalization on civil status documents can be obtained at the following local authority:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Website: <http://www.zimfa.gov.zw/index.php/contact/contact-details>

Fees

Entry of the marriage in the Swiss civil status register is free of charge, however in certain cases fees can occur. If this is the case, you will be informed accordingly.

Processing time

Once the complete documentation has been received by the competent Swiss representation, experience has shown, that this process can take several weeks or months.

Further information

If the documents are sent by mail: Please include a cover letter mentioning your personal and contact details. It is however strongly recommended to use a private courier company.

Only once the marriage has been registered in Switzerland, a new Swiss passport can be issued in case of surname change after the marriage.

Please contact the Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa (RCC) at the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria if a **citizen of a different country is concerned or the marriage took place outside of Zimbabwe.**

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