



Registration of a child born out of wedlock

Nigeria

Please check the following website: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/nigeria/en/home/services/civil-status/birth.html>

The following documents (**one original and one copy**) must be submitted by a parent of the child to the Embassy of Switzerland in Abuja for legalisation and translation:

()** Declarations + Affidavits from **Benin City (Edo State)** have to be issued for **“International Purposes”** (cost per document NGN 500, must hold signatures of Commissioner of Oath AND Deputy Chief Registrar)

From the mother (Nigerian national):

- Birth documents
 - If birth was registered before the 18th birthday:
 - Certificate of Birth issued by a National Population Commission (NPC)
 - If birth was not registered before the 18th birthday:
 - Declaration of Age (**) sworn by a parent at a High Court or Magistrate Court, not older than 6 months (*mention names + first names of both parents!*)
- and**
 - Attestation of Birth issued by the National Population Commission (NPC), not older than 6 months
 - => The Declaration of Age and the Attestation of Birth HAVE TO BE ISSUED IN THE SAME STATE**
- Certificate of Address **not older than 6 months** issued by the City/Town Local Government of the (former) place of residence (*if applicable, please include the children*)
- or**
 - Affidavit of Address (**) **not older than 6 months** sworn by the applicant (*if applicant is living abroad - sworn by a parent of the applicant*) at the High Court or Magistrate Court of the (former) place of residence (*if applicable, please include the children*)
- Affidavit of Origin (**) indicating the applicant's name, date of birth, the community, local government, State of Origin and name of parents **not older than 6 months**
- or**
 - Certificate of Origin **not older than 6 months** issued by the City/Town Local Government of the applicant's place of origin
- Confirmation of the civil status **not older than 6 months**
 - Certificate of spinsterhood issued by the City/Town Local Government of the (former) place of residence
- or**
 - Affidavit of spinsterhood (**) sworn by the applicant (*if the applicant is living abroad: sworn by a parent of the applicant*) at the High Court or Magistrate Court of the (former) place of residence
- or**
 - Marriage Certificate / Divorce documents
- Valid Nigerian passport (*if living abroad: also valid residence permit*)
- Questionnaire for verification of civil status documents (*can be downloaded from the Embassy website*)

From the Child:

- Certificate of Birth issued by a National Population Commission (NPC)
- Valid Nigerian passport

From the father (Swiss national):

- Copy of Swiss passport or ID
- Certificate of residence (*Wohnsitzbestätigung/Certificat de domicile*)
- Certificate of civil status (*Zivilstandsbestätigung/Certificat d'état civil*)
- If originally from Nigeria: Questionnaire for verification of civil status documents (*can be downloaded from the Embassy website*)

A child **born in Nigeria can be recognized by the father through the Nigerian authorities**. In this case, the father presents the **child's birth documents** and an **affidavit of paternity (**)** (sworn by the father at a High Court or Magistrate Court) fully indicating the parent's and the child's surnames, first name(s), date and place of birth. The above-mentioned documents are also necessary. In some cases, the recognition of paternity is done in Switzerland (if the father has residence in Switzerland). If the parents have joint custody and the child should live with one parent in Switzerland, an affidavit of consent (**) of both parents is required.

The Embassy reserves the right to request additional documents. **The parent/s has/have to come to the Embassy in person. We do not accept documents from third persons.** If the parent/s is/are not in Nigeria, the documents must be submitted where they are presently and legally residing (i.e. Switzerland). **Incomplete files are not accepted.** The legalisation procedure can take up to **5 months** and is subject to a fee (approx. CHF 900.00) payable in Naira or CHF in advance. **Original documents submitted to the Embassy will not be returned to the client.**