



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

September 2022

Documents to submit

- original marriage certificate*** (*Religious marriage certificates issued by Sharia courts or churches are not accepted*)
- if one of the spouse/partner is domiciled in Switzerland, a copy of their Swiss marital status certificate
- copy of the valid passports**
- addresses of spouses** on an empty A4 sheet
- for joint children that are not yet entered in the Swiss civil status register**
 - original birth certificate*** of the children (*baptism certificates are not accepted*)
 - if born before the marriage, **acknowledgement of paternity** (*issued by the competent court*)
 - foreign passport or ID card** of the child, *if already existing*

For spouses who are not Swiss citizens:

- original birth certificate*** (*baptism certificates are not accepted*)
- original civil status record **before** the marriage or registered partnership was performed:
 - a) **non-marital certificate** or **non-impediment attestation** confirming the civil status at the time of marriage, not older than six months (*Ethiopian authorities might keep the original at the time of marriage. Make sure to keep 2 photocopies recto-verso before the marriage*)
 - b) **divorce certificate*** and **court decision** (*issued by the competent court*)
 - d) **death certificate*** of deceased spouse/partner and **marriage certificate***
- valid ID card** for residents in Ethiopian
- declaration form** concerning voluntary verification of foreign civil status documents, duly dated and signed

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

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

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.

Legalization

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.

Fees

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

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. This 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 the same day at the counters of Embassy of Switzerland in Addis Abeba. For detailed information, please consult the Embassy's [website](#).