



## Adoption in Belize: entry in the Swiss civil status register

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April 2022

### Documents to submit to your Swiss representation

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Procedure after an **adoption is legally valid in Belize:**

- Birth certificate before adoption, apostilled, 1 original + 1 photocopy.
- Birth certificate after adoption, apostilled, 1 original + 1 photocopy.
- Adoption decision from court mentioning the place where it was granted (if possible with a statement of enforceability), apostilled, 1 original + 1 photocopy.
- Passport 2 photocopies from both parents and child of the page with personal data.

The original documents are 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. The procedure is **free of charge** and can take **up to 6 months**. For **registration of the surname** the data of the Belizean birth certificate is generally used. Once registration in Switzerland is completed, the first Swiss identity documents can be applied for. Changes of civil status must always be registered in chronological order. If there was a **previous civil event** that was not registered in the civil registry in Switzerland, this has to be processed beforehand.

### Apostille

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**All Belizean certificates must carry an APOSTILLE.**

The apostille must be ordered in the corresponding Belizean office.

Hours of operation:  
Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.  
Telephone service:  
Monday to Thursday from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 14:00 to 15:00  
Friday from 9:00 to 12:00

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