



Divorce in The Gambia: entry in the Swiss civil status register

21.06.2022

Documents to submit

- divorce order specifying the date of entrance into force, issued by the competent court
- divorce certificate, issued by the competent court
- document stipulating the parental custody of any joint children, unless indicated on the divorce decree
- copies passports of the divorcees
- Place of residence at the time of the divorce and current address details of the divorcees

The documents have to be originals and must not be older than six months. They are submitted to the competent civil status authority in Switzerland and will not be returned. Photocopies are not accepted. Additional documents may be required if necessary.

Thorough verification

Foreign civil status documents are subjected to a thorough authenticity verification by an approved law firm mandated by the representation. For this purpose, the Swiss representation requires the following:

- declaration form "Voluntary verification of foreign civil status documents", duly dated and signed (download on our website)
- advance payment of 400'000 francs CFA for a thorough verification by a law firm approved by the Swiss representation
- questionnaire for the verification of civil status documents

Additional documents may be required, depending on the conclusions of a lawyer's expert advice or the requirements of the authorities in Switzerland.

The approved law firm mandated may take up to six months, sometimes longer, to verify the civil status documents thoroughly. The conclusions of the firm's advice are not binding on the civil status authority concerned.

Fees

The costs resulting from a thorough verification of foreign civil status documents are to be paid via an advance of 400'000 francs CFA. A definitive statement of the actual costs will be drawn up at the end of this process.

Submission of the file and procedure

It is possible to have documents procured by relatives or authorized third parties.

Upon completion of the verification, the embassy legalizes the documents and forwards them to the competent cantonal authorities. The entry in the Swiss civil status register can take up to two months.

The submission of files at the Embassy is only possible after prior appointment by telephone or by e-mail. Incomplete dossiers will not be accepted. To complete a file, a new appointment is mandatory.

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