



## Marriage / Civil Union in New Zealand

To register your marriage *or* same sex civil union with the authorities in Switzerland, please provide the following documents:

- **Marriage certificate**
  - issued within the last 6 months. If the document is older, a new document must be ordered
  - photocopies, scans or certified copies will not be accepted
  - will not be returned to you
- Form “[Additional information to register a Marriage or a Civil Union](#)”
  - signed by both parties within the last 6 months (with place and date)

### For the non-Swiss spouse

- **Birth certificate**
  - showing the full name of the parents
  - issued within the last 6 months. If the document is older, a new document must be ordered
  - photocopies, scans or certified copies will not be accepted
  - will not be returned to you
- **Two copies of the foreign passport**
- **Confirmation of civil status / marital status** (if applicable):
- **Divorced: Order Dissolving Marriage**
  - Original “Order Dissolving Marriage”
  - or an original certified copy, issued within the last 6 months by the Court which granted the order
  - with mention of date order made and date order sealed
  - will not be returned to you
- **Widowed: Death certificate of previous spouse**
  - issued within the last 6 months. If the document is older, a new document must be ordered
  - photocopies, scans or certified copies will not be accepted
  - will not be returned to you
- **See next page for further information**

## Important information

- If any of the civil status events of the non-Swiss person took place outside of New Zealand, please inform this representation, as we would then need to check what documents are required. An advance payment may be required and the process can take several months.

Upon receipt of the relevant documents, we will translate and legalise the documents and forward them to the appropriate authority in Switzerland, so that the family details can be updated in the Swiss central system (Infostar); this takes on average 3-4 months.

The civil registrar authorities in Switzerland can request additional documentation.

## Civil union - Terminology

A marriage in New Zealand between two people of the same sex will be registered in Switzerland as a **registered partnership** and not as a marriage.

Switzerland only recognises registered partnerships (i.e., “**Civil Unions**” according to the terminology in New Zealand) between persons of the same sex. A New Zealand Civil Union between a man and a woman has no legal status in Switzerland; hence, there is no need to register such Civil Unions with the Embassy.

### Where to obtain the documents?

Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)  
Births, Deaths and Marriages,  
PO Box 10526  
Wellington 6143  
Website [www.bdm.govt.nz](http://www.bdm.govt.nz)  
E-mail: [bdm.nz@dia.govt.nz](mailto:bdm.nz@dia.govt.nz)

### Where to send the documents?

Embassy of Switzerland  
10 Customhouse Quay  
P.O. Box 25004  
Wellington 6146  
New Zealand