



Divorce/Dissolution of marriage/registered partnership in South Africa: entry in the Swiss civil status register

October 2025

Documents to submit

- Original excerpt of the Final Order of Divorce/Dissolution of marriage/registered partnership* issued by the competent High Court, legalized with an Apostille (see rubric "Apostille")**
- Photocopy of passport or ID card** of the South African ex-spouse/partner, indicating surname after divorce/dissolution of registered partnership (in case surname has changed after the divorce/dissolution of registered partnership)
- Photocopy of passport or ID card** of the Swiss ex-spouse/partner
- If the Swiss ex-spouse/partner is a dual citizen and has changed surname after divorce/dissolution of registered partnership: **photocopy of South African passport or ID card**, indicating surname after divorce/dissolution of registered partnership
- Questionnaire divorce, completed and signed

If the divorced couple has minor children: I

- Original certified copy of the custody sentence*** mentioning the holder of the parental authority, issued by the competent High Court and **legalized with an Apostille** (see rubric "Apostille")

The original certificates are submitted to the competent civil status authority in Switzerland and will not be returned (**photocopies or certified copies with an Apostille issued by a Public Notary are not accepted**). Additional documents may be required by the Swiss civil status authority.

Only original certificates with seal and signature of the Registrar of the High Court in charge can be accepted.

All documents marked with a * **must not be older than six months** (date of issue) at the time of their submission to the Regional Consular Centre (RCC) or the Consulate General.

Apostille

For the **Apostille** on the **divorce certificate/final order**, please contact the concerned provincial divisions of the High Court <https://www.judiciary.org.za/>

Translation

Documents that are not in English must be translated into a Swiss national language (German, French, Italian or Romansch).

Fees

Entry of the divorce/dissolution of partnership abroad in the Swiss civil status register is free of charge, however in certain cases fees can occur. If this is the case, you will be informed accordingly.

Processing time

Once the complete documentation has been received by the competent Swiss representation, experience has shown that this process can take several weeks or months.

Further information

If the documents are not submitted personally: Please **include a cover letter** mentioning your **personal and contact details**. If sent, it is however strongly recommended to use a **private courier company** instead of postal mail.

Only once the divorce/dissolution of registered partnership has been registered in Switzerland, a new Swiss passport can be issued in case of surname change.

Please contact the Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa (RCC) at the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria or the Consulate General of Switzerland in Cape Town if the **divorce/dissolution of partnership took place outside of South Africa**.

Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa

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P.O. Box 2508, Brooklyn Square, 0075 Pretoria
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Consulate General of Switzerland

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