



Registration of marriage

The competent authority of the place of the marriage in Ethiopia only can give information about the procedure.

In order to register the marriage in Switzerland afterwards, following procedure applies:

Step 1: Providing of documents

For the Swiss or foreign partner residing in Switzerland:

- ❖ **Two (2) passport copy**
- ❖ **Two (2) copies of address in Switzerland**

For the Ethiopian partner:

- ❖ **Passport**
- ❖ **Marriage certificate** (*issued by the Vital Events Registration Agency*)
Religious marriage certificates issued by Sharia courts or churches are not accepted.
- ❖ **Birth certificate** (*issued by the Vital Events Registration Agency*)
- ❖ **Non-marital certificate or non-impediment attestation** confirming the civil status at the time of marriage, not older than six months
 - As the Ethiopian authorities often keep the original of the non-marital certificate at the time of the marriage, it is important to make two (2) photocopies recto-verso **before** the marriage
 - If divorced, additionally divorce certificate (issued by the Vital Events Registration Agency)
 - If widowed, additionally the **marriage certificate** and **death certificate** of the previous spouse (issued by the Vital Events Registration Agency)
- ❖ **Certificate of residence** confirming the residence at the time of marriage
 - Valid ID-card

For common children:

- ❖ **Birth certificate** (*issued by the Vital Events Registration Agency*) of the child
- ❖ **Foreign passport**, if already existing

Please 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.

Step 2: Legalization and translation

The original Ethiopian civil status and court documents need to be legalized by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 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](#)).

Step 3: submission and payment of fees

All documents must be submitted as **originals** upon appointment. Please call the consular section of the Embassy to arrange an appointment. Certificates issued once only (e.g. birth certificate) will be returned after the verification.

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The fees for the verification of the documents range between **CHF 120 – CHF 700** depending on the amount of documents and region. The fees need to be paid in cash and ETB at the moment of submission.

The Embassy of Switzerland reserves the right to request further documents. The cantonal civil status authorities also demand further documents as needed.

Step 4: Registration of marriage

All submitted documents will be verified, authenticated, legalized and sent to the civil status office responsible for the place of residence of the partner living in Switzerland. A delay of **at least three months** is to be expected until the marriage is registered. After such delay, the Swiss resp. the partner who lives in Switzerland is kindly invited to contact the responsible civil status office directly.

Step 5: Entry to resp. residence in Switzerland

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

Should you have any questions regarding the registration of marriage, please do not hesitate to contact the Embassy by e-mail or telephone.

Addis Abeba, September 2018