



Death in Greece: Entry in the Swiss civil status register

12.05.2022

Documents to submit

- Original death certificate or a legalised copy from the Registry Office (Ληξιαρχική πράξη θανάτου σε πρωτότυπο ή φωτοαντίγραφο επικυρωμένο από το ληξιαρχείο)
- Swiss identity documents of the deceased (passport and identity card). The voided documents can be returned for commemorative purposes if the family requests this when submitting them.
- contact information for reaching a member of the surviving family

The original documents are submitted to the competent civil status authority in Switzerland and must not be older than six months. They can be returned on written request only prior to being sent to Switzerland.

Important: Photocopies and coloured scans legalised by a lawyer or another authority are not accepted. By request of the competent authorities in Switzerland, additional documents may be required, if necessary.

Legalisation (Apostille)

All foreign documents must bear the Apostille (Σφραγίδα της Χάγης) which is issued by the competent Greek decentralised administration. These administrations can be found:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decentralized_administrations_of_Greece

Translation

After the Apostille has been issued, the document must be translated into an official Swiss language (German, French or Italian) by a translator of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs or by a certified translator of your choice based on the ELOT-Hellenic Standard (the standardised transcription of Greek into Latin characters applied by the Greek authorities).

It should be noted that translations made electronically by authorised translators of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs via <https://www.mfa.gr/ypiresies-gia-ton-politi/metafrastiki-ypiresia/i-metaphrastiki-ypiresia.html> are accepted by Decision No 4781/2021 of the Ministry. These translations do not longer have a handwritten signature, but mention a digital code on the header of the page.

Fees

Entry of the death in the Swiss civil status register is free of charge.

Further information

- All original documents must be accompanied by a photocopy.
- The documents must be sent by registered mail or by courier service in order to prevent any loss.
- The registration takes about 2-3 months, depending on the canton.