



Factsheet – Marriage / Civil Union in New Zealand

Please note: *an Apostille is required on all civil status certificates and court documents from the following countries of our consular district: the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Niue.*

Please note: 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.

Please note: 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.

To register your marriage or your same sex civil union with this Embassy and the authorities in Switzerland, you will need to submit the following documents:

- Marriage certificate or Civil union certificate, issued within the last 6 months. If the document is older, a new document must be ordered and re-issued. Photocopies, scans or certified copies are not accepted;
- Birth certificate of the non-Swiss partner, showing the full names of the parents, issued within the last 6 months. If the document is older, a new document must be ordered and re-issued. Photocopies, scans or certified copies are not accepted;
- Form “[Additional information to register a Marriage or a Civil Union](#)” signed by both parties within the last 6 months (with place and date);
- If the non-Swiss partner was previously married or in a civil union, the original divorce or dissolution order or a certified copy of the same, issued within the last 6 months by the Court which granted the order, with mention of date order made and date order sealed;
- If the non-Swiss partner was previously widowed, an original death certificate of the previous partner, issued within the last 6 months. If the document is older, a new document must be ordered and re-issued. Photocopies, scans or certified copies are not accepted;
- Duly signed valid passport of the non-Swiss partner or a certified copy of the same issued within the last 6 months by a Notary Public or a Court;
- If an original passport is sent, a prepaid, trackable, self-addressed courier bag for the safe return of the passport.

Please note that the above-mentioned documents (except the passport) will be sent to Switzerland for registration and cannot be returned to you.

Civil status certificates issued in a different country will be sent for legalisation and translation to the competent Swiss Embassy or Consulate. In some cases, this process is subject to a fee and can take several weeks. In some cases additional documents may be required.

Where to obtain the documents?

Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)

Births, Deaths and Marriages,

PO Box 10526

Wellington 6143

Website www.bdm.govt.nz

E-mail: bdm.nz@dia.govt.nz

Phone (within New Zealand): 0800 22 77 77 or 0800 22 52 52

Phone (from outside New Zealand): +64 4 463 9362

Where to send the documents?

Embassy of Switzerland

10 Customhouse Quay

P.O. Box 25004

Wellington 6146

New Zealand

Wellington, 10 April 2018