



Divorce in Zimbabwe: entry in the Swiss civil status register

July 2022

Documents to submit

- Original divorce certificate* with legal effect and mentioning custody of the minor children**, issued by the High Court and **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see rubric “Legalization”)
- Photocopy of Swiss Passport or ID Card of Swiss citizen
- Photocopy of Passport or ID Card of Zimbabwean citizen
- If the Swiss citizen is a dual citizen and has changed the surname after the divorce: **photocopy of Zimbabwe Passport or ID** indicating surname after divorce
- Questionnaire, completed and signed

If the divorced couple has minor children:

- Original certified copy of the Final sentence*** mentioning the holder of the parental authority, issued by the competent High Court and **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see rubric “Legalization”)

The original certificate is submitted to the competent civil status authority in Switzerland and will not be returned in principle (**photocopies or certified copies are not 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).

Legalization

The legalization on civil status documents can be obtained at the following local authority:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Website: <http://www.zimfa.gov.zw/index.php/contact/contact-details>

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 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 sent by mail: Please include a cover letter mentioning your personal and contact details. It is however strongly recommended to use a private courier company.

Only once the divorce 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 if the **divorce took place outside of Zimbabwe**.

Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa

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