



Marriage to be performed in Switzerland

July 2022

Documents to submit

From the Zimbabwean fiancé(e):

- Application for preparatory procedure for marriage**, to be completed and signed at Regional Consular Center in Pretoria (form will be handed out during the visit)
- Declaration concerning pre-conditions for entering into marriage**, to be completed and signed at Regional Consular Center in Pretoria (form will be handed out during the visit)
- Original birth certificate*** (Certified Copy of an Entry of Birth Registered in the district of ... in Zimbabwe"), issued by the Registrar General of Births and Deaths, **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see page 2)
- Original Certificate of actual marital status/non marriage certificate***, issued by the Registrar General of Marriages, **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see page 2)
- Original Certificate of residence***, affidavit mentioning the detailed residence address of (at least) the last six months as well as the period (since ... until...), issued by a Public Notary, **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see page 2)
- Original, valid passport** and two photocopies thereof

If you have previously been married or if widowed:

- Original certified true copy of the original divorce certificate***, issued by the competent High Court, **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see page 2)
- Original certificate of Death*** of previous spouse, issued by the Registrar General of Births and Deaths, **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe (see page 2)

From the Swiss or foreign fiancé(e) living in Switzerland:

- Copy of the Certificate of Civil Status for Swiss Nationals ("Personenstandsausweis / Certificat individuel d'état civil / Certificato individuale di stato civile")
- Copy of his/her passport
- For foreigners living in Switzerland -> copy of his/her Swiss residence permit

The original certificates are submitted to the competent civil status authority in Switzerland and will not be returned (**photocopies or certificates without legalization 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

The Regional Consular Centre/the Consulate General charges a minimum fee of CHF 230.00, payable in South African Rand (ZAR) for filing the application for marriage. The fees in ZAR may vary according to the exchange rate. Depending of the documents presented, additional costs may arise. Please enquire about the exact fee in ZAR before submitting the documents.

That does not include the fees of the Swiss civil registrar.

Visa

Zimbabwean citizens require a visa to enter Switzerland. The visa procedure is separate from the marriage preparation process and the fees are not included in the above overview.

Please refer to the following website <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/south-africa/en/home/visa/entry-ch.html> for further information and if necessary, contact the Visa section directly (pretoria.visa@eda.admin.ch)

Processing time

It is recommended that the application for marriage preparation and the visa application are submitted at **least 4 – 6 months** before the marriage is planned to take place.

If the foreign fiancé(e) is not a South African citizen, some foreign documents may require prior legalizations from other Swiss representations and this procedure may also involve additional fees, expenses and time.

Further information

It is mandatory that you present yourself in person at the Regional Consular Center in Pretoria to hand in your documents. Please contact the Regional Consular Centre in order to make an appointment.

The Swiss/foreign fiancé(e) living in Switzerland has to submit his/her application for marriage preparation at the competent civil registry office in Switzerland.

The civil registry office in Switzerland in the town or city where the marriage is going to take place is solely responsible for specifying and processing the required documents. **Additional documents may be required.**

Please contact the Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa (RCC) in Pretoria if a **citizen of a different country is concerned or an event took place outside of Zimbabwe.**

Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa

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