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Marriage, birth, death

For these important stages of life, the approach is different in each country. Switzerland also has its own peculiarities.

To describe the family situation, we speak of **Zivilstand** ([🔗 Marital status](#)) in Switzerland.

The office responsible for marriage, birth and death is called **Zivilstandsamt** ([🔗 The registry office certifies births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)).

Here's what you need to know about getting married, giving birth or dying:

Marriage

For the marriage, the **Zivilstandsamt** ([🔗 The registry office certifies births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)) requires the following documents:

- Family ID card
- Confirmation of Establishment
- Proof of identity
- Birth certificate

Missing documents can be obtained from the responsible office:

[> order civil status documents](#)

Marriage abroad

Before getting married, find out about the required documents at the civil registry office and the responsible **Zivilstandsamt** ([🔗 The registry office certifies births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)) abroad. After the marriage, the Swiss embassy transmits all documents to Switzerland.

A purely religious wedding without a certificate from an official office is not recognized in Switzerland.

To enter the country as a married couple, please contact the **Migrationsamt** ([🔗 Authority for Migration](#)) or the Swiss Embassy.

Further information can be found at the **Zivilstandsamt** ([🔗 The registry office certifies births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)) your municipality of residence:

[🔗 Directory of the Canton of St.Gallen](#)

Birth

You must report the birth of your child to the **Zivilstandsamt** ([🔗 The registry office certifies births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)) within 3 days of the birth.

Usually, the hospital or birthing center makes the report. In the case of a birth at home, you as parents make the registration within 3 days. You will need your family ID card as well as an official ID.

The **Zivilstandsamt** ([🔗 The registry office certifies births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)) issues the birth certificate.

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Death

If a person dies at home, notify a doctor immediately. The doctor will issue a death certificate.

Then report the death to the [Zivilstandsamt](#) ([🔗 The registry office certifies births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)). There you will receive the death certificate for reporting to insurance companies, banks, health insurance companies.

If you have any questions about the funeral, please contact the [Zivilstandsamt](#) ([🔗 The registry office certifies births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)), a funeral home and the pastoral care service.

Death Checklist

[🔗](#) Directory of the Canton of St.Gallen



Do you need an apostille or legalization? ⚠️

The State Chancellery of St.Gallen certifies documents from the Canton of St.Gallen that you need for abroad. Order the apostille in the webshop with selection of the desired country and language.

Contact points

Find the right contact point, advice or authority in your area: [Contact points](#)

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