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Marriage, birth, death

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

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

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

Read about what you need to know in the event of marriage, birth and death:

Marriage

For marriage, the **Zivilstandsamt** ([🔗 The registry office notarizes births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)) needs 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 from the **Zivilstandsamt** ([🔗 The registry office notarizes births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)) and the responsible registry office abroad. After the marriage, the Swiss embassy transmits all documents to Switzerland.

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

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

Further information can be found at the **Zivilstandsamt** ([🔗 The registry office notarizes births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)) in 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 notarizes births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)) within 3 days of the birth.

Normally, 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 the family ID card and an official ID.

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

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

Death

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

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

Questions about the funeral can be discussed with the [Zivilstandsamt](#) ([? The registry office notarizes births, marriages, partnerships and deaths](#)), a funeral home and pastoral care.

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.

Contact points

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