



Marriage to be performed in Sierra Leone

15.04.2022

Documents to submit in person to your Swiss representation

- "Certificate of Matrimonial Capacity" form to be filled in at the representation, only available at the counter

For the spouses who are a Swiss citizen and domiciled in Switzerland

- copy of the valid passport
- certificate of residence

For spouses who are not Swiss citizens:

- original birth certificate establishing who the parents are
- original civil status record **before** the marriage was performed:
 - a) certificate establishing that they are unmarried (certificate of Bachelorhood/Spinsterhood)
 - b) divorce judgement that specifies when it entered into force
 - c) dissolution decree that specifies when it entered into force
 - d) certified true copy of death certificate of deceased spouse/partner
- original certificate of residence valid when the marriage was performed was registered (affidavit)
- passport

Certain documents may no longer be required if the person is already registered in the Swiss civil status register.

The original documents are submitted to the civil status authority concerned in Switzerland and must not be older than six months. They will not be returned. Photocopies are not accepted. Additional documents may be required if necessary.

Legalisation

All foreign civil status documents must be legalised before being submitted to the Swiss representation by the Ministry of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thorough verification

As a rule, foreign civil status documents to be submitted must undergo a thorough verification of their authenticity by an approved law firm mandated. To this end, please submit the following to the Swiss representation:

- declaration form concerning voluntary verification of foreign civil status documents, duly dated and signed
- advance on the cost of USD 1000 or XOF 600'000 for a thorough verification by a law firm approved by the Swiss representation, payable by cash at the counter.

Additional documents may be required, depending on the conclusions of a lawyer's expert advice or the requirements of the authorities concerned in Switzerland.

The approved law firm mandated may take several months (6-8 months) to verify the civil status documents thoroughly. The conclusions of the firm's advice are not binding on the civil status authority concerned.

Fees

The costs resulting from a thorough verification of foreign civil status documents are to be paid via an advance. A definitive statement of the actual costs will be drawn up at the end of this process.

Further information

If necessary, the Embassy reserves the right to request further documents.