



## Divorce in Samoa: How to update the Swiss civil status register

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14.04.2022

### Documents to submit

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- Divorce order with Apostille**
  - Original order dissolving marriage/civil union or an original certified copy, issued within the last 6 months by the Court which granted the order (will not be returned to you)
  - legalised with an Apostille
  - with mention of date order made and date order sealed
  - photocopies, scans or certified copies will not be accepted
  
- Form “[Additional information to register a Divorce/Dissolution of Civil Union](#)”, signed by both parties within the last 6 months (with place and date)**
  
- If applicable: Custody order for your children with Apostille**
  - Original “Custody order” or an original certified copy, issued within the last 6 months by the Court which granted the order (will not be returned to you)
  - issued within the last 6 months. If the document is older, a new document must be ordered
  - legalised with an Apostille
  - with mention of date order made and date order sealed
  - photocopies, scans or certified copies will not be accepted
  
- If any document has not been issued by the Samoa authorities, please contact this representation.** We will then inform you about the criteria required for the non-Samoa Islands documents. Additional documents and/or an advance payment may be required for the verification process, which can take several months.

### Translation

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Documents that are not in a Swiss national language or in English must be translated.

### Fees

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Registration of the divorce/dissolution of partnership abroad in the Swiss civil status register is free of charge.

**See next page for further information**

## Further information

### **Where to obtain the documents?**

Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS)  
Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Division  
Level 1, Government Building (MFMII)  
PO Box 1151  
Apia  
Samoa  
Website: [www.sbs.gov.ws](http://www.sbs.gov.ws)  
Email: [info.stats@sbs.gov.ws](mailto:info.stats@sbs.gov.ws)  
Phone: (685) 24 384  
Fax: (685) 24 675

### **Where to obtain the Apostille?**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
PO Box L1859  
Apia  
Samoa  
Website: [www.govt.ws](http://www.govt.ws)  
Email: [mfa@mfat.gov.ws](mailto:mfa@mfat.gov.ws)  
Phone: +685 21 171 / +685 25 313

### **Where to send the documents?**

Embassy of Switzerland  
Level 12, 10 Customhouse Quay, Wellington 6011  
PO Box 25004, Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

Upon receipt of the relevant documents, the Embassy will translate and legalise the documents and forward them to the appropriate authority in Switzerland, so that the family details can be updated in the Swiss civil status register (Infostar); this takes on average 3-4 months.

The civil registrar authorities in Switzerland may request additional documents / information.