



Information Sheet for Marriages in Laos

In order for Lao nationals to marry a Swiss national in Laos, the authorities of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos require, in accordance with art. 4 of the Decree no. 198/PM, dated 19 December 1994, the below documents:

- ❖ Requests for marriage by each partner
- ❖ Curriculum vitae of each partner
- ❖ Certificate of residence of each partner
- ❖ Identity document (Passport or Identity card) of each partner
- ❖ Three (3) photos of each partner (size 4 x 6 cm)
- ❖ Certificate of civil status of each partner
- ❖ Health certificate of each partner (by an approved medical facility in Laos)
- ❖ Criminal record's report of each partner
- ❖ Prove of income or assets by the Swiss partner
- ❖ Guarantee declaration by the Swiss, allowing the Lao partner to return to Laos on request and in case of a divorce
- ❖ "Marriage Application" document by the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok issued for the Swiss partner

The local Lao authorities responsible can provide further details on the process and may request additional documents at their discretion. All above information is without guarantee!

The Regional Consular Center at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok is able to legalize the Swiss documents and issue the "Marriage Application" as requested by the Lao authorities. For that however, both partners are required to visit the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok **in person prior to their marriage** and present the following **original documents**:

For the Swiss partner:

- ❖ **Swiss passport**
- ❖ **Certificate of residence** (less than 6 months old)
 - if residing in Switzerland: issued by the municipal administration
 - if residing abroad: issued by the Embassy
- ❖ **Certificate of civil status** (less than 6 months old)
 - to be obtained from the civil status office at the place of origin
- ❖ **Criminal record's report** (less than 6 month old)
 - available through the following website:
https://www.e-service.admin.ch/crex/cms/content/strafregister/strafregister_en/
- ❖ **Prove of income or asset**
 - if employed: Employment certificate issued within the last 6 months and indicating monthly remuneration (no tax record or pay slip)
 - if retired / self-employed: Confirmation of pension entitlement less than 6 months old or bank account statement of the last 3 months

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For the Lao partner:

- ❖ **Lao passport**
- ❖ **Birth certificate** or a **Confirmation of birth** (less than 6 months old) with first and surnames of parents
 - available from the village chief or at the district office
- ❖ **Certificate of residence** (less than 6 months old) or **Family book**
 - available from the village chief
- ❖ **Certificate of civil status** (less than 6 months old) with clear statement to the actual marital status "single", "divorced" or "widowed"; available from the village chief
 - if divorced: an additional **extract of the divorce register**
 - if widowed: the **death certificate** of the previous spouse in addition
- ❖ **Certificates regarding changes of first and surnames** in case they were ever changed

For common children:

- ❖ **Lao passport**
- ❖ **Birth certificate** or a **new Confirmation of birth** with first and surnames of parents

All Lao language documents require translation into English, French or German through a translation office approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos. Only for documents that are already bilingual (Lao/English) thorough, no translation will be needed. All documents from Laos as well as their translation require to be **legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos** prior to their submission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok.

The counters of the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok are open for such submissions from Monday to Friday, 09:00 – 11:30 ICT, and appointments are not required. Only complete files can be received. After all submitted documents have been verified, the required "Marriage Application" (for residents of the consular district also the certificate of residence) is being issued by the Embassy. These documents should be ready for pick-up one working day later at the earliest.

Fees: The occurring fees are in accordance with the Ordinance on Fees of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (OFees-FDFA) as well as the Ordinance on Civil Status Fees (CSFO). The fee for issuing the "Marriage Application" as well as certificate of residence is **CHF 40.00 each**. Fees for the time to verify all foreign documents amount to a further **estimated CHF 150.00**. All charges have to be paid in **Thai Baht (THB) and cash** during document submission at the counters of this Embassy.

After your marriage has been solemnized, the original Lao **marriage certificate** is to be **legalized** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos and **forwarded** to the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok. For certificates that are not yet bilingual (Lao/English) thorough, an additional translation legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos is required.

Original documents like passports, birth certificates, family books and later the marriage certificate will be returned to you as soon as possible.

The Embassy of Switzerland will be officially transmitting the marriage to the responsible cantonal Civil Status Authorities for its registration in Switzerland. A delay of approx. two to five months is to be expected until the cantonal authorities have completed registration of the marriage in the Swiss Civil Registry.

Entry or taking up residence in Switzerland: Foreign spouses need the approval of the cantonal migration office. The applications (3 sets) and 4 passport photos must be submitted at the visa section of the Embassy and will be forwarded to the migration office in charge.

For more detailed information regarding entry to or residence in Switzerland, please visit the website of the visa section: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/laos/en/home/visa/einreise-ch.html>

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