



Marriage to be performed in Laos

November 2022

Documents to submit in person to your Swiss representation

For Laotian citizens who wish to marry a Swiss citizen in Laos, the authorities of the Lao People's Democratic Republic require the following documents in accordance with Article 4 of Decision No. 198/PM of 19 December 1994:

- Applications for marriage from both partners
- Curricula vitae of both partners
- Confirmation of residence of both partners
- Identity documents (passport or identity card) of both partners
- 3 passport photos of both partners (format 4 x 6 cm)
- Civil status certificates of both partners
- Medical certificates of both partners (from a recognised medical institution in Laos)
- Criminal records of both partners
- Proof of income or assets of the Swiss partner
- Guarantee declaration of the Swiss partner granting the return of the Laotian partner to the home country upon request and in case of divorce.
- Marriage application document from the Regional Consular Centre in Bangkok for the Swiss partner

The competent local authorities in Laos provide detailed information on the procedure and may request further documents. All the above information is without guarantee and is determined by the Laotian authorities.

The following **original** documents are required for the issue of the "Marriage Application":

For the Swiss partner resident in Laos:

- Swiss passport**
- Confirmation of residence** (not older than 6 months)
 - if resident in Switzerland: issued by the municipal administration
 - if resident abroad: issued by the embassy
- Civil status certificate** (not older than 6 months)
 - available from the civil registry office of the place of origin
- Criminal record extract (not older than 6 months)**
 - can be ordered via the following website
https://www.e-service.admin.ch/crex/cms/content/strafregister/strafregister_de/
- Proof of income or assets**
 - Employed persons: employer's confirmation of employment and monthly salary, issued within the last 6 months (no tax or salary statements)
 - Pensioners / self-employed persons: Pension confirmation not older than 6 months or bank account statement for the last 3 months.

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Bangkok 10330

G.P.O. Box 821, Bangkok 10501

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For the Lao partner:

- Lao passport**
- Birth certificate** or **confirmation of birth** (not older than 6 months) with parents' first and family names.
 - available from the village head or district office
- Residence certificate** (not older than 6 months) or **family book**
 - available from the village head
- Certificate of civil status** (not older than 6 months) with clear statement of marital status "single", "divorced" or "widowed"; available from the village headman
 - if divorced: additionally the extract from the divorce register
 - if widowed: additionally the death certificate of the deceased spouse
- Documents on name** or **first name changes** if applicable

For common children:

- Lao passport**
- Birth certificate** or **new birth certificate** with parents' first and last names

The original Lao certificates and documents must be submitted in person at the Regional Consular Centre. The presentation must take place during [the opening hours](#) of the counter (with an [appointment](#)). Documents which are issued only once (e.g. birth certificate) will be returned immediately.

Translation

All documents written in Lao must be **translated** into English, French or German by a translation agency approved by the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Only documents that are already completely bilingual (Lao/English) do not require translation.

Legalisation

All Lao documents and their translations must be **certified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos** before submission to the Regional Consular Centre in Bangkok.

Fees

After verification of the documents submitted, a "Marriage Application" (for Swiss nationals residing in the consular district also the confirmation of residence) is issued by the Embassy. These documents are ready for collection one working day later at the earliest.

The costs incurred are according to the Ordinance on Fees of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FeeO-FDFA) and the Ordinance on Fees in Civil Status (ZStGV). The costs for a "Marriage Application" and for a confirmation of residence are **CHF 40.00** each. The costs for the time required to check the foreign documents amount to a further **approx. CHF 150.00**. All fees are to be paid in **Thai Baht (THB)** or by credit card at the counter.

Further information

The fiancé domiciled in Switzerland completes and signs his own forms at the civil status authority responsible for his place of residence. Swiss nationals abroad who do not live in Switzerland or Laos should contact the representation responsible for their place of residence.

The civil registry offices in Switzerland or the Swiss representation can provide information about the surname after the marriage.

Processing time

All documents and records submitted are finally legalised and forwarded to the competent civil status authorities in Switzerland for entry in the Swiss civil status register. It takes at least ten weeks for the marriage to be registered. After this period, the civil registry office responsible for your place of origin will inform you about the status of the transcription and will issue official certificates (e.g. confirmation of the marriage) on request.

The Regional Consular Centre and the competent Swiss authorities reserve the right to request additional documents or to have additional records verified.

After the marriage

Once the marriage has taken place, the original Lao marriage certificate must be legalised by the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sent to the Regional Consular Centre in Bangkok. For documents that are not already fully bilingual (Lao/English), a translation certified by the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also required.

Original documents such as passports, birth certificates, family registers and, later, marriage certificates, are returned as soon as possible.

Visa application for Switzerland

Laotian nationals need a visa to travel to Switzerland or to take up residence there. A visa application can be submitted at the visa section of the Regional Consular Centre. For detailed information, please consult the [website](#) of this representation and/or contact the visa section at the following e-mail address: bangkok.visa@eda.admin.ch.