



Marriage to be performed in the Philippines

January 2025

Generally, all foreign nationals need a certificate of legal capacity to marry in order to contract marriage in the Philippines.

Documents to submit in person to your Swiss representation

The following documents must be submitted by the Philippine national getting married with a Swiss national in **original** with one photocopy:

From the Philippine partner:

- Valid passport**
- Birth Certificate*** issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and with Apostille from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), not older than six months

**If birth was registered late (more than 30 days after the date of birth) submit the following additional documents and provide address and phone number of the issuing authorities:*

- Birth Certificate issued by the Local Civil Registrar's Office
- Original Certificate of Baptism
- Original Grade Card, Transcript of Record or other school certificates

The following must be submitted according to your civil status:

Single:

- Certificate of no marriage "CENOMAR"** issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and with Apostille from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), not older than six months

Widowed:

- Certificate of Advisory on Marriages "CEMAR"** issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and with Apostille from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), not older than six months
- Death Certificate** of former spouse, issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and with Apostille from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

Foreign divorce/annulled marriage:

- Certificate of Advisory on Marriages "CEMAR"** issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and with Apostille from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), not older than six months
 - Annotated Marriage Certificate** issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and with Apostille from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
 - Certified true copy of Court Decision/Order/Decree** and **Certificate of Finality** of the annulment/recognition of foreign divorce of marriage, with Apostille from the DFA and translated into any Swiss Language (German, French or Italian)
- Certificate of residence**, not older than six months
This document is called **cedula or Community Tax Certificate**.

From the Swiss partner:

Copy of valid passport

The partner residing in Switzerland should send a clear copy of the passport to the partner in the Philippines.

Copy of certificate of residence, not older than six months

This document must be ordered from the civil or municipal authority of the place of residence. It is called "Wohnsitzbestätigung" in German, "Certificat de domicile", in French and "Certificato de domicilio" in Italian.

The documents will be sent to the civil status authority concerned in Switzerland and will not be returned. Additional documents may be required if necessary.

For other nationals residing in the Philippines

Please contact the Embassy.

E-Apostille and e-certificates

Apostille is required for all Philippine civil registry documents to be used in Switzerland.

The Philippines now issues e-Apostilles and e-Certificates. However, the competent authorities in Switzerland may still request for the original and physical documents.

Appointment

Please contact the Embassy by email to schedule an appointment: manila@eda.admin.ch

Personal appearance

The partner residing in the Philippines is required to submit the documents personally at the Embassy.

The Swiss national registered at the Embassy is requested to appear personally and lodge his or her request for preparation for marriage, and can start the application with his or her passport only.

The Swiss national residing in Switzerland has to contact the competent civil registry office for his or her place of residence OR the Swiss national residing abroad (outside the Philippines) has to contact the Swiss representation of the country of residence.

Thorough verification

The authenticity of the Philippine documents will be verified with the competent local authorities before transmission to the competent civil status office in Switzerland.

Additional verification, documents and fees may be required through an external service.

The certificate of legal capacity to marry will be issued by the competent civil status office in Switzerland in approximately 4 to 6 months minimum, if all documents are in order.

Fees

An advance payment of **PHP 35'000.00**, payable by debit/credit card, GCash or in cash, is required upon submission of the documents. Any remaining balance will be returned to the applicant upon

Embassy of Switzerland
24th Floor, BDO Equitable Tower
8751 Paseo de Roxas
1260 Makati City, Metro Manila
Philippines
Tel. (+63 2) 8845 45 45, loc.2
manila@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/philippines

completion of the procedure. If the advance payment cannot cover the additional fees charged by the Swiss authority, an additional payment will be required.

Registration of marriage

After the marriage, the following **original** documents must be submitted in order to register it with the competent civil authorities in Switzerland:

- **Original Marriage Certificate** issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), with apostille from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), not older than six months
- **Copy of passport of Filipino spouse** (with the name after marriage)

There is no fee for registration of the marriage. Personal appearance is not required. The documents may be sent to the Embassy via courier such as LBC.

Further information

- Please note that incomplete documents will not be accepted.
- For documents which require a translation, you may contact an official translator of your choice, or you may refer to our list of translators:
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/philippines/en/home/services/uebersetzer.html>
- For all questions regarding marriage in the Philippines, information may be obtained from the local authority in charge of the marriage.
- If either of the partners was previously married in the Philippines and a divorce was validly obtained abroad, the divorce should generally be judicially recognized first before getting married again. It is advisable to consult a private lawyer to file a petition for recognition of foreign divorce with the responsible Regional Trial Court in the Philippines. Annulment of the marriage by the court can also be considered.