



## Divorce in Namibia: entry in the Swiss civil status register

July 2022

### Documents to submit

- Original certified copy of Final Order of Divorce\*** issued by the competent High Court and **legalized with an Apostille** (see rubric "Apostille")
- Photocopy of passport or ID card** of the Namibian ex-partner, indicating surname after divorce (in case surname has changed after divorce)
- Photocopy of passport or ID card** of Swiss ex-partner
- If the Swiss ex-partner is a dual citizen and has changed the surname after the divorce: **photocopy of Namibian Passport or ID indicating surname after divorce**
- Questionnaire, completed and signed

If the divorced couple has minor children:

- Original certified copy of the custody sentence\*** mentioning the holder of the parental authority, issued by the competent High Court and **legalized with an Apostille** (see rubric "Apostille")

The original certificates are submitted to the competent civil status authority in Switzerland and will not be returned (**photocopies or certified copies with an Apostille issued by a public Notary are not accepted**). Additional documents may be required by the Swiss civil status authority.

**Only original certificates** with seal and signature of the Registrar of the High Court in charge can be accepted.

All documents marked with a \* **must not be older than six months** (date of issue) at the time of their submission to the Regional Consular Centre (RCC).

### Translation

Documents that are not in English must be translated into a Swiss national language (German, French, Italian or Romansch).

### Apostille

The Apostille on civil status documents can be obtained at the following local authorities:

#### Ministry of Justice

Justitia Building  
Independence Avenue  
Windhoek  
Namibia

<https://moj.gov.na/issuing-of-apostilles-by-the-ministry-of-justice>

For the **Apostille** on the **divorce certificate/final order**, please contact the Registrar of the High Court of Namibia [www.ejustice.moj.na](http://www.ejustice.moj.na)

## Fees

Entry of the divorce abroad in the Swiss civil status register is free of charge, however in certain cases fees can occur. If this is the case, you will be informed accordingly.

## Processing time

Once the complete documentation has been received by the competent Swiss representation, experience has shown that this process can take several weeks or months.

## Further information

If the documents are sent by mail: Please include a cover letter mentioning your personal and contact details. It is however strongly recommended to use a private courier company.

**Only once the divorce has been registered in Switzerland, a new Swiss passport can be issued in case of surname change after the divorce.**

Please contact the Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa (RCC) at the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria if the **divorce took place outside of Namibia**.

### **Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa**

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