



New Regulations for children born from mixed couples (foreigner/chinese)

Since January 1, 2014 China started to use a new version of the Medical Certificate of Birth which provides greater security (see specimen below). With it comes the new regulation in force, whereas parents (if mixed Chinese / Swiss) now must decide whether they want to have the western name (Latin letters) or the Chinese name (Chinese letters) on the birth certificate.

If the child gets a western name, the mother or the father cannot register the new born in the Hukou in China and as a consequence, the child cannot apply for a Chinese passport and for further benefits (school etc.).

If the parents, however, opt for the Chinese name, the birth certificate should be authenticated then translated by a Notary Public and legalized by the competent Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FAO Office). The surname and first name of the child will then be transcribed to the Swiss register in the Pinyin version.

In addition, it is told that both parents must sign the birth certificate in the hospital. If the father is absent, the child's mother may do it for him, but a written authorization and the original passport will be required. This applies to both married and unmarried parents.

