

REGISTRATION OF A DIVORCE ABROAD

Dear Sir/Madam,

We refer to your enquiry and wish to inform you that there is not formal application for the registration of the divorce of a South African citizen, who got divorced abroad. The Department of Home Affairs should however be informed of the divorce, so that the marital status and surname, if it has changed, of a South African citizen may be updated on the Population Register. The following documents must be submitted to register the divorce:

- written request for registration of a divorce abroad;
- [Form BI-529](#) to be fully completed **in block letters and in black ink** (attached);

NOTE:

- *All applicants are kindly requested to fully complete this form, which would assist in locating records at the Department of Home Affairs in Pretoria.*
- *Questions 9, 10, 11 of Part A are of particular importance.*
- *Questions that are not applicable should be marked as 'n/a'; if answers to certain questions are not known, they should be marked as 'Do not know'.*
- *Applicants should include a valid mobile phone number and email address under Part E.*

- original or certified copy of the applicant's South African passport or identity document;
- original or certified copy of the foreign divorce decree accompanied by an English translation by a sworn translator (*beeidigter Übersetzer*).

Should you require clarification on completing the application forms or have any further enquiries about the application process, please contact our office at your convenience.

Kind regards
Consular Section
Embassy of the Republic of South Africa
Tiergartenstr. 18
10785 Berlin

Tel.: 030 22073 0
Fax: 030 22073 202
Email: berlin.consular@foreign.gov.za

NOTE (Please read carefully):

- There is no application fee for the registration of a divorce abroad and upon registration of the divorce at the Department of Home Affairs in Pretoria, no certificate would be issued.
- Persons whose surnames have changed, may apply for a [tourist passport](#) and/or [identity document](#), reflecting the new surname (the requirements and forms are available on request from our office) – current legislation stipulates that female divorced applicants may elect to continue using their married surname, revert to their maiden surname, any previous married surname or amended surname, or add such surname to any married surname she legally bears or bore at any prior time, without having to formally apply for change of surname.
- A complete application may be either mailed to our office, or submitted personally during the consular opening hours: Mon-Fri; 09:00-12:00.
- **Application forms should not be folded**, and applications that are submitted by post should be mailed in an A4-size envelope.
- Applicants who reside in Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg must submit their applications to the South African Consulate-General in Munich:

South African Consulate-General
Sendlinger-Tor-Platz 5
80336 Munich

Tel: 089 23 11 63 0

Fax: 089 23 11 63 53

Email: munich.consular@foreign.gov.za

- The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (formerly, Department of Foreign Affairs) offers a voluntary registration service for South African citizens that are travelling or residing abroad. This service is provided in the event there is a need to contact you to offer urgent advice on a natural disaster or civil unrest or a family emergency. Information may submitted by a South African citizen via the [ROSA Online Registration form](#).