

## REGISTRATION OF A MARRIAGE ABROAD

A South African citizen, who got married abroad, shall inform the Department of Home Affairs of the marriage, so that the marital status of a South African citizen may be updated on the National Population Register (NPR).

### PLEASE PRINT OUT THIS CHECKLIST AND SUBMIT IT WITH THE COMPLETE APPLICATION!

The complete application must be submitted **in person and by appointment only** (see [http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Civic\\_business\\_hours.doc](http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Civic_business_hours.doc)).

	<b>The following documentation must be submitted by each applicant. Please keep / submit the documentation in the order as listed below.</b>	<b>Mission</b>
1	<p><b>A letter from the applicant requesting the marriage abroad to be registered on the National Population Register</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The signed and dated letter must be addressed to the Director-General of the Department of Home Affairs and include:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant's full name and identity number.</li> <li>The date and place of marriage.</li> <li>The spouse's full name and date of birth.</li> <li>The applicant's contact details (residential address, mobile phone number and email address).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<p><b>The applicant's original South African passport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A photocopy of the passport page with the applicant's biometric data / photograph must also be submitted.</li> <li><b>The original document will be given back to the applicant.</b></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
3	<p><b>The applicant's original South African identity document</b>, if available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A photocopy of the document must also be submitted.</li> <li><b>The original document will be given back to the applicant.</b></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4	<p><b>The applicant's spouse's original passport (or identity document)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A photocopy of the passport page with the applicant's biometric data / photograph must also be submitted.</li> <li><b>The original document will be given back to the applicant.</b></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
5	<p><b>The applicant's original foreign marriage certificate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An apostille in terms of the 1961 Hague Convention must be affixed to the document in order to prove authenticity. An apostille is also referred to as an '<i>Überbeglaubigung</i>' in Germany and applicants who got married in Germany may obtain further details from the registry office (<i>Standesamt</i>), where the marriage was solemnised and which issued the marriage certificate (<i>Heiratsurkunde</i>). If the original marriage certificate is not in English, it must be translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator (<i>beeidigter Übersetzer</i>) at the expense of the applicant.</li> <li>Alternatively, applicants who got married in Germany may submit an extract from the marriage register (<i>Auszug aus dem Heiratseintrag</i>), which is also referred to as an '<i>internationale Heiratsurkunde</i>'; <b>such document must also have an apostille affixed to it.</b> The original extract from the marriage register (<i>Auszug aus dem Heiratseintrag</i>) shall not be given back to the applicant, as it is sent to the Department of Home Affairs in Pretoria – if needed, the applicant may apply for another extract / international marriage certificate at the German registry office (<i>Standesamt</i>) for his or her own records.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Upon registration of the marriage at the Department of Home Affairs in Pretoria, a South Africa no marriage certificate may be issued as proof of registration of the marriage, it will only be registered on National Population Register (NPR) system.

**Please note:**

-South African citizens who certify their relationship in terms of the German 'life-partnership law' (Lebenspartnerschaftsgesetz) will not be able to register such relationship as a marriage in South Africa because it is not legally equated to a marriage in terms of German law. \*However, the same-sex marriage of a South African citizen, which was solemnised in Germany **after 1 October 2017**, may be registered with the Department of Home Affairs i.e. such South African citizen may change his or her marital status to MARRIED on the NPR, by providing a marriage certificate issued by the relevant German authorities (see Point 5 above).

- **Female** South African citizens whose surnames have changed after marriage may apply for a tourist passport (see [http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Passport\\_over\\_16.doc](http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Passport_over_16.doc)) and/or an identity document (see [http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Identity\\_document.doc](http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Identity_document.doc)), which reflects her new married surname – current legislation stipulates that female married applicants may elect to use their married surname, their maiden surname, a combination of both current married surname and maiden surname i.e. double-barrel surname or any other surname which she bore at any prior time, without having to formally apply for change of surname.

- **Male** South African citizens whose surnames have changed after marriage must make a formal application for change of surname