

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).

	The following documentation must be submitted by each applicant. Please keep / submit the documentation in the order as listed below.	Mission
1	A letter from the applicant requesting the marriage abroad to be registered on the National Population Register <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> i. The applicant's full name and identity number. ii. The date and place of marriage. iii. The spouse's full name and date of birth. iv. The applicant's contact details (residential address, mobile phone number and email address). 	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	The applicant's original South African passport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A photocopy of the passport page with the applicant's biometric data / photograph must also be submitted. The original document will be given back to the applicant. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
3	The applicant's original South African identity document, if available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A photocopy of the document must also be submitted. The original document will be given back to the applicant. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4	The applicant's spouse's original passport (or identity document) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A photocopy of the passport page with the applicant's biometric data / photograph must also be submitted. The original document will be given back to the applicant. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
5	The applicant's original foreign marriage certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 'Überbeglaubigung' 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. 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 'internationale Heiratsurkunde'; such document must also have an apostille affixed to it. 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. 	<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%20over%2016.doc)) and/or an identity document (see [http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Identity document.doc](http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Identity%20document.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*