



Marriage between German and Ethiopian Citizens

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The following information are for your orientation only and are not comprehensive. We recommend that specific questions are discussed with the German Embassy.

German citizens require to present a valid passport and a consular certificate issued by this Embassy to enter into marriage at an Ethiopian registry office. When one partner is divorced, the Ethiopian registry office requires the divorce decree. If the decree was issued in Germany, legalisation by the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin or the Ethiopian Consulate General in Frankfurt (Main) is necessary. The German Embassy in Addis Ababa cannot legalise German instruments.

The consular certificate can only be issued by this Embassy if a valid **Ehefähigkeitszeugnis (certificate of no impediment to marriage)** is presented. This certificate states whether the German law maker sees any impediments to the intended marriage. An impediment may be that one of the partners is married, incapable of contracting or related in a particular manner with the other partner or has entered into a civil union with a third person.

A "Meldebescheinigung" (registration with a German city authority) indicating the civil status of the German party is not sufficient for issuing a consular certificate, as a Meldebescheinigung does not confirm this partner's civil status in a legally binding manner.

Issuing authority for an Ehefähigkeitszeugnis is the registry office at the German partner's current or last place of residence in Germany.

As a rule, the registry office required the birth certificates of **both** partners as well as certified photocopies of their passports. The non-German partner also requires a certificate indicating the marital status. Ethiopian citizens can apply for a "Non-Marital Certificate" at the registry office of their place of residence. Divorced partners can present the divorce certificate. Furthermore, the registry office may require further documentation, ie a statutory declaration on the partner's civil status.

Application forms for an "Ehefähigkeitszeugnis" can be obtained in the consular section of this Embassy.

A religious or traditional marriage can only be accepted if it is registered with an Ethiopian registry office and a marriage certificate issued.