



Adoption in Thailand: entry in the Swiss civil status register

June 2025

Documents to submit

If the adoptive parents and the future adoptive child are resident in Thailand, the adoption is not an adoption under the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention). This means that a conversion (conversion according to the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in the Field of International Adoption) of a Thai adoption that was not processed according to the Hague Convention on Adoption into a Swiss full adoption is ruled out from the outset.

The Hague procedure is used when the child is to be brought from one Contracting State ("home State") to another Contracting State ("host State") for the purpose of adoption. It is thus applicable when the child and the adoptive parents have their habitual residence in different Contracting States, while their nationality is irrelevant. **If the adoptive parents and the future adoptive child are resident in Thailand, the adoption is a national simple adoption. Swiss citizenship is not acquired.**

Future adoptive parents can try to apply for an adoption at the adoption authority responsible for them (home canton) according to IPRG Art. 76, because the Thai adoption would create a child relationship that would have an effect that differs substantially from Swiss law and this could be unreasonable for his or her new parents. It is up to the adoptive parents to take the necessary steps with the competent cantonal adoption authority.

In the case of a full adoption, the adopted child receives the surname of his or her adoptive parents, which is also possible on request in the case of a simple adoption under Thai law. According to Art. 267 para. 3 of the Swiss Civil Code, the child can be given a new first name at adoption, provided that the best interests of the child are thereby protected. The adoptive parents must submit the application for this together with the adoption application.

For Swiss citizens residing in Thailand who have adopted a child, the documents of the adopted child mentioned below must be submitted for registration:

- ☐ **Birth certificate** (*Tho. Ro. 1* or *Tho. Ro. 19*) of the child
- ☐ **Copy of the adoption approval of the adoption committee**
- ☐ **Extract from the adoption register** (*Kho. Ro. 14*), if the adoptive parents are of different nationalities, one extract per nationality must be submitted
- ☐ **Certificates of name or first name changes** (*choir 2 / choir 3 / choir 5*)
- ☐ **House register** (*Tabian Ban*) or certified extract from the register of residents (*Tho. Ro. 14/1*)
- ☐ **Foreign passport** or Thai identity card - if no passport available, in the name after adoption

The cantonal supervisory authorities may also request additional documents.

All original certificates and documents can be handed in during [opening hours](#) (with prior [appointment](#)) and by post. Certificates (e.g. birth certificate) that have only been issued once will be returned immediately.

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bangkok.cc@eda.admin.ch, www.eda.admin.ch/bangkok

Translation

Documents in Thai must be translated into German, French, Italian or English. A list of possible translation agencies can be found on the following website:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/thailand/en/home/services/translations.html>

Legalisation

All original Thai documents must be authenticated by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand** before being submitted to the Embassy. Copies of birth certificates, house registers (Tabian Ban) and name change certificates issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can also be accepted. Passport and identity cards do not need to be authenticated.

Contact details of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and information on authentication can be found under the following link:

<https://www.mfa.go.th/en/publicservice/5d5bcc2615e39c306000a328?cate=5d5bcb4e15e39c30600068d3>

Further information

The Thai adoption authority is helpful with the procurement of documents.

Child Adoption Center
Department of Children and Youth
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
255 Rajvithi Home for Girls
Rajvithi Road
BANGKOK 10400
Tel. 02 306 8855, 02 306 8834
Fax 02 354 7511
<http://dcy.go.th/>

Processing time

All submitted documents and certificates will be forwarded through official channels to the competent civil status authorities in Switzerland for entry in the Swiss civil status register. A period of at least **two months** must be expected before the entry is made.