

South African Birth Registration

Persons born abroad to South African parents may avail of South African citizenship by descent through birth registration.

A parent, parents, guardian or any other person legally responsible for the child must complete Form BI-24 (with black ink only) and submit it at LOSA.

Birth registrations are processed and finalized in South Africa by the Department of Home Affairs therefore it requires a longer processing period that may exceed 6 months. **Once the child's birth has been registered, an unabridged birth certificate is issued free of charge.** As soon the certificate is received by LOSA the parents will be informed to collect.

What do I need to register my child?

1. Both parent(s) and the child must report to the office on the day of application. Where one of the parents is deceased, an authenticated death certificate must be produced
2. An authenticated copy of the child's foreign birth certificate
3. An authenticated copy of the parent's marriage certificate
4. Authenticated copies of the South African parent's proof of South African citizenship e.g. birth certificate, identity document or valid passport.
5. Affidavit from the *non-South African parent* or *South African mother* of child being registered, confirming his/her consent for the child's birth to be registered in South Africa
6. Certified copy of *non-South African parent's* passport or government-issued ID

Please note: Where certificates required are not in English. You are required to have them translated into English and authenticated. Failure to do so will result in your application not being accepted

At LOSA along with the above, the following forms (available) at the office will be completed

- ✓ Form DHA 24, Notice of Birth
Section F: To be completed and signed by the South African parent of child being registered. If both parents are South African citizens, the father must complete and sign this part.
- ✓ [Form BI 529](#), Determination of Citizenship Applicant and South African parent must complete this form. If both parents are South African citizens, each must complete this form.

Once the child has an abridge birth certificate with an Identity number the parents may apply for the child passport and full birth certificate.

Registering the birth of a child born within wedlock

Children born within wedlock can be registered under the surname of the father and mother jointly, where both parents have given consent (subject to the signatures on the margin).

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Registering the birth of a child born out of wedlock

Children born out of wedlock are registered under the surname of the mother. They may also be registered under the surname of their biological father provided that the father acknowledges paternity and both the father and the mother consent to the registration of the child under the father's surname in the presence of a Home Affairs official.

Form BI-24 must be completed (with black ink only) and it must be submitted at LOSA

Once the child's birth has been registered, an unabridged birth certificate is issued free of charge. LOSA will inform the parents once it has been received from South Africa.