

GERMANY

Civil Registration

INTERNATIONAL

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Acceptable documents for German citizens

The primary documents which are used for proving identities are the identity card ("Personalausweis") and the passport. Since every German is obliged to own an identity card or a passport from the age of 16 on you should insist that at least one of the presented documents is an id card or a passport.

A driver's license usually also is accepted but they do not have an expiry date and so you may be presented a very old (and easily forged) license. That's why I'd consider it a secondary document.

A birth certificate does not contain verifiable personal attributes, but since they are only handed out to the person in question I'd accept them as a secondary document.

Other secondary documents could be company badges, account cards of public transport authorities and the like. You should only accept those if they contain a photo of the person, you have seen those before and you have reason to assume that they are not easily forged.

Note on birth names in Germany

Since the late seventies it has been possible for a man to adopt (or prepend/append to their birth name) the woman's name at marriage, so both sexes can have a birth name on the id card.

Since early 2001 same-sex unions became officially possible, and one of the partners may adopt the common name or prepend/append it to her/his birth name (§ 3 LPartG).

1. Identity Card

The German id card has a size of about 7x10 cm, is of greenish colour with a more reddish stripe on the backside. It is laminated in plastic, the front side of the plastic contains engraved structures (stylised eagles).

The front side contains a colored photo, name (possibly including birth name), date and place of birth, the nationality and the expiry date. There also is a facsimile of the person's signature and two lines of "machine readable data" (nationality, name, card no, birth date and expiry date with some checksum digits in an OCR font).

The backside contains the current address (which may be on an adhesive label if the person moved since the card was issued), height, color of eyes, a possible

religious name or pseudonym, the issuing authority, the date of issuing and once again the name of the person.

Newer versions of the ID card have holographic images embedded on the front side.

An id card is valid for up to ten years (generally five years for youths) from the date of issue.

Link to detailed description of the German [id card](#).

2. Passport

The first (inside) page of a passport is a laminated card quite similar to the front side of the id card, but it is slightly larger (about 12x8.5 cm) and contains the issuing authority, date of issue on the front side. The backside of the laminated card contains no personal attributes.

The German printing factory (Bundesdruckerei) has an [archive](#) of official German identity documents.

The rest of the passport won't help you very much for the purpose of assurance and I'd consider it quite rude to browse the visas without explicitly asking.

Link to detailed description of the [passport](#).

Germany - Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths

By [Kimberly Powell](#), About.com Guide

See More About:

- [vital records](#)
- [german genealogy](#)
- [death records](#)
- [marriage records](#)
- [civil registration](#)

Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths in Germany began following the French Revolution in 1792. Beginning with regions of Germany under French control, most German states eventually developed their own individual systems of civil registration between 1792 and 1876. In general, German civil records begin in 1792 in Rheinland, 1803 in Hessen-Nassau, 1808 in

Westfalen, 1809 in Hannover, Oct 1874 in Prussia, and Jan 1876 for all other parts of Germany.

Since Germany has no central repository for civil records of births, marriages and deaths, the records may be found in several different locations.

Germany civil records locations.

1. Local Civil Registrar's Office:

Most civil birth, marriage and death records in Germany are maintained by the civil registration office (Standesamt) in the local towns. You can usually obtain civil registration records by writing (in German) to the town with the appropriate names and dates, reason for your request, and proof of your relationship to the individual(s). Most cities have websites at [www.\(nameofcity\).de](http://www.(nameofcity).de) where you can find the contact information for the appropriate Standesamt.

2. Government Archives:

In some areas of Germany, duplicate civil records of births, marriages and deaths have been sent to the state archives (Staatsarchiv), district archives (Kreisarchive), or other central repository. Many of these records have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library or through local Family History Centers.

3. The Family History Library:

The Family History Library has microfilmed the civil registration records of many towns throughout Germany up to about 1876, as well as copies of records sent to many of the various state archives. Check the Family History Library Catalog to learn what records and time periods are available.

Parish Records of Birth, Marriage & Death:

Often called parish registers or church books, these include records of births, baptism, marriages, deaths, and burials recorded by German churches. The first surviving Protestant records date back to 1524, but Lutheran churches in general began requiring baptism, marriage, and burial records in 1540; Catholics began doing so in 1563, and by 1650 most Reformed parishes began keeping these records. Many of these records are available on microfilm

Since 2009.01.01 in Germany, a new personal status law in force. The law provides that documents will be after the expiry of fixed periods to records.

Affected are:

- Births books that are older than 110 years (vintages up to 1898)**
- Marriage books, which are older than 80 years (vintages up to 1928)**
- Death books, which are older than 30 years. (Vintages to 1978)**

These books are stored in archives. Therefore we get from these books, a copy of the entry. Please note that these old messages are exclusively in German and are not certified.

Inquiries into an archive may take several weeks. Please understand that processing time can not there be accelerated.

For the cities of Berlin and Leipzig, ask office@germany-service.com before ordering.

Our fees:



German birth certificates from Germany

One [international birth certificate from Germany](#). One in 69.00 USD a multilingual form issued birth certificates. The form contains the following languages german, english, french, italian, dutch, polish, portuguese, serbo-croatian, spanish and turkish.

One birth certificate only in german language	<u>69.00 USD</u>
One birth certificate only in german and one international	<u>99.00 USD</u>

One marriage certificate international	69.00 USD
One marriage certificate only in german language	69.00 USD
One marriage certificate only in german and one international	99.00 USD

[international](#)

One death certificate international	69.00 USD
One death certificate only in german language	69.00 USD
One death certificate only in german and one international	99.00 USD

One Apostille (included one multilingual birth certificate)	149.00 USD
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

One divorce decree	69.00 USD
One divorce decree including statement of legal effect and apostille	149.00 USD

Attention:

All documents have a seal of course...


The certificates contain personal data which are subjected to data protection. Therefore they can only be requestet by Persons that the certificate refers to, their ancestors, marriage partners, or descendants (regulated by §61 Personenstandsgesetz, german law).

Other persons (even other relatives) may only request a certificate if they have a signed written authorisation of a person the certificates relates to [German death certificates from Germany](#)

Your contact-information and shipping adress:

* Necessarily declared

Gender*

Mrs. 

Your Full Name:*

Your Street:*

Your City:*

State:*

ZIP:*

Country:*

USA 

Your EMail address:*

Your Phone Number:

Your Fax Number:

I need the death document from Germany for:

Sex:*

Female

First Name:*

Middle Name:

Surname:*

Birth name / Maiden name:

Date of death* (YYYY.MM.DD)

1876

January

1

Please indicate the reasons, why you need this document and in which relationship you are to the death person

Place of death:*

If available the register number

IMPORTANT:

Of course we pay back your payment if we cannot obtain the document.
Payments are made by a secure server of PayPal.

Further information about your request

BIRTH CERTIFICATE:

Send the form and go to the payment page

We ask for understanding
Orders without fee payment are not worked on.
German marriage certificates from Germany

Our fees:

One in a international / multilingual form issued marriage certificates 69.00 USD

The form contains the following languages german, english, french, italian, dutch, polish, portuguese, serbo-croatian, spanish and turkish.

This form is the most wanted.

One marriage certificate in german language 69.00 USD

One marriage certificate in german and one in multilingual form 89,00 USD

Your contact-information and shipping adress: * Necessarily declared

Gender*

Mrs. ▼

Your Full Name:*

Your Street:*

Your City:*

State:*

ZIP:*

Country:*

USA ▼

Your EMAIL address:*

Your Phone Number:

Your Fax Number:

Marriage documents from Germany for:

Sex:*

Female ▼

Name:

(First,Middle,Last)*

Date of marriage* (YYYY.MM.DD)

1876 ▼

January ▼

1 ▼

Please indicate the reasons, why you need this document:

I need my own marriage Certificate ▼


Place of marriage:*


If available the register number

IMPORTANT:

Of course we pay back your payment if we cannot obtain the document.
Payments are made by a secure server of PayPal.

Further information about your request

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE: 



Send the form and go to the secure payment page

We ask for understanding
Orders without fee payment are not worked on.

Apostille from Germany Hague Convention

What is an Apostille?

An Apostille is a special certificate issued by an authority. This certificate confirms the exact match of a copy with its original document. Apostilles are issued in the countries which signed the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents – in short Hague Convention.

This convention has been signed in 1961 and replaces the time-consuming, multilevel process of certification, where one document has to be certified by four different authorities.

What's the use of Apostilles?

An Apostille is used for copies of official documents required in another country, e.g. international marriages, adoptions, inheritances or normal contracts. An Apostille is an official confirmation of the genuineness of a document which shows the exact match of a copy with its original document.

We also obtain Apostilles:

procedural documents / notarial documents / Certificates and administrative documents / Trade Register Extracts / Certificates of tax offices / School records / Diploma / Clearance certificates

Please contact office@germany-service.com for more information.

Our fees:

One Apostille (*included one multi-lingual form issued birth certificates. The form contains the following languages german, english, french, italian, dutch, polish, portuguese, serbo-croatian, spanish and turkish.*) 149.00 USD

Your contact-information and shipping adress: * Necessarily declared

Gender*	<input type="text" value="Mrs."/> ▼
Your Full Name:*	<input type="text"/>
Your Street:*	<input type="text"/>
Your City:*	<input type="text"/>
State:*	<input type="text"/>
ZIP:*	<input type="text"/>
Country:*	<input type="text" value="USA"/> ▼
Your address:*	E-Mail <input type="text"/>
Your Number:	Phone <input type="text"/>
Your Number:	Fax <input type="text"/>

I need one
Apostille
included one
from Germany for:

Sex:*

First Name:*

Middle Name:

Surname:*

Birth name / Maiden name:

Date of birth (YYYY.MM.DD)

Mothers name:

Fathers name:

Mothers maiden name:

Please indicate the reasons, why you need this document:

Place of birth:*

If the Apostille shall be required for a marriage certificate, please enter the date and place of marriage.

If available the register number


For which country the Apostille is required? :*

IMPORTANT: If you were born on army base or an army hospital, we cannot procure documents.
If you are born in a camp of displaced persons give us the name of the camp.

Of course we pay back your payment if we cannot obtain the document.
Payments are made by a secure server of PayPal.

Further
information
about your
request

Apostille:



Send the form and go to the payment page

[Example certificate \(page 1\)](#)

[Click for enlarging view](#)

[Example certificate \(page 2\)](#)

[Click for enlarging view](#)

[Example apostille](#)

[Click for enlarging view](#)

Privacy Policy

Data protection

We (GSC), respect the privacy of your personal data and abide by the rules of data protection laws. Only personal data necessary for technical purposes and application with the authorities has to be sent through this website. After the order has been carried out all data will be deleted. No data will be sold or given to a third party.

Who can request divorce decrees?

Divorce decrees can only be requested by involved persons and their children. To be allowed to request the decree, we need you to issue a power of attorney and a copy of your passport for identification purposes, for children we also need a copy of the birth certificate.

Duration

Delivery of all documents usually takes a couple of weeks. Thank you for your understanding.

Certificates that we get are issued by the registrar's offices in Germany with official seal.

Your contact-information and shipping address:

* Necessarily declared

Gender*

Mrs. ▼

Your Full Name:*

Your Street:*

Your City:*

State:*

ZIP:*

Country:*

USA ▼

Your EMail address:*

Your Phone Number:

Your Fax Number:

I need the divorce decree from Germany for:

Sex:*

Female ▼

First Name:*

Middle Name:

Surname:*

Birth name / Maiden name:


Date of birth* (YYYY.MM.DD)

Date of divorce (If the exact date is not known. Be sure to specify the year!)

Please indicate the reasons, why you need this document:

Place of the divorce:*

Further information about your request

Divorce decree: 

[Send the form and go to the secure payment page](#)

Orders without fee payment are not worked on.

- [Example](#)
- [Statement of legal effect](#)
- [Click for enlarging view](#)

The standard German ID card

IT IS known as the *Personalausweis*, is used like a U.S. driver's license. German-speakers, accustomed to a level of official registration and supervision that Americans find rather Orwellian, carry this card as a handy mini-passport. In fact, the *Personalausweis* functions as a sort of passport for Germans and Austrians traveling within the European Union, where they do not need a regular passport.

But even if a German-speaker just wants to move from one apartment to another in the same building, he must register his new address with the authorities. This *Anmeldung* is required within a few days of moving, whether within a building or across the country. If you move away, then *Abmeldung* (deregistration) is necessary before you leave. To take care of *Anmeldung* or *Abmeldung*, contact the registration office (*Einwohnermeldeamt*) at the city hall (*Rathaus*

“It's smaller than the old one, but can do a lot more,” Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière said in a statement.

The information on the card itself will be digitally stored on the RFID chip inside the card, in addition to two fingerprint scans that German citizens can choose to opt out of. The ID will also have a digital signature that can be used to complete official business with government offices and possibly beyond – accessed only by a six digit PIN number.

“The citizens choose who they want to give what data to,” Interior Ministry official Hans Bernhard Beus said.

But data protection advocates say the RFID chip, which can be detected via radio frequencies from about two metres away without the owner's knowledge, is problematic despite the fact it has already been incorporated into German passports.

Dr. Andreas Pfitzmann, head of the privacy and data security group at Technische Universität Dresden, told The Local on Monday that there is no reason to use RFID chips for identification cards, and that in the worst case scenario, the chips could be used to carry out such things as terrorist attacks.

“An extreme example would be that assuming German passports react differently to the radio frequency than American passports, I could use this frequency to set off a bomb where I know there are only Americans or Germans,” he said.

Pfitzmann, who specialises in privacy and identity management in Europe, spoke out against using RFID "e-passports" in parliamentary hearings during the late 1990s. He said the new ID cards raise similar concerns.

“Unfortunately the technology tempts people to give personal information that shouldn’t be made public to dubious machines,” he told *The Local*, adding that there was no way to indicate whether a reading machine is officially authorised. “The new identification card has inherited many of the bad traits of the passport.”

But the new *Perso*, as it’s known colloquially in German, also has some positive new additions such as the digital signature, which could help streamline Germany’s notoriously opaque bureaucracy, he said.

“There is no easy answer. One could have done some things better, but I wouldn’t simply say that it’s only negative just because mistakes were made,” Pfitzmann said.

All old identification cards will be valid until they expire, though German residents will have the option to trade up for the new ID early if they wish.

Death & Dying in Germany

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In the event of a death occurring in the home, a doctor should always be contacted. The doctor will confirm the date and time of death and fill out the death certificate (*Todesbescheinigung*). If death takes place in a hospital, the hospital will arrange for the death certificate to be completed. Only if there are any suspicious circumstances should the police be called.

Reporting and Registering the Death

The death must be reported to the local registrar (*Standesamt*). Often the family of the deceased do this themselves, but it may also be done by the funeral home. Take any relevant documentation, including:

- Passport
- Residency permit (if applicable)

- It is also best to take the deceased person's birth certificate and marriage certificate (if available)

Moving House in Germany

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Residence Permits

The local registration authority (*Meldeamt* or *Meldestelle*) must be informed of any change of address.

- If **moving within Germany** contact the new local *Meldeamt* and register the change of address (*ummelden*). This will automatically cancel the existing police registration (*polizeiliche Anmeldung*) and record the new one
- If **leaving Germany** contact the local, current *Meldeamt* to de-register (*abmelden*). Failure to complete the de-registration procedure may result in a fine if re-registering with the police at some point in the future

To register or de-register:

- Go to the local *Meldestelle* and ask for an *Abmeldungsformulare*. To avoid having a long wait at the *Meldestelle* ask if it is possible for the forms to be completed and returned by post
- In some cities forms can be completed online

To find out, select the appropriate town or city and download the *Abmeldungsformulare*: [Click here](#) (in German).