



Joining my German child for the purpose of custody and care

Last update: December 2025

Apply now online [here](#) and upload the following documents:

- **Passport** with a copy of the data page and any visas entered.
The passport must be valid for a sufficient period and have at least two blank pages.
- Your valid **residence permit** for Switzerland or Liechtenstein
- Completed **application form** (to be filled out online on the Consular Service Portal)
- One passport sized **photo** – no older than three months, according to biometric standards
- Copy of child's **passport** and **registration** in Germany
- Original **birth certificate** of the child if applicable with legalization ([more information](#))
- **Parents marriage certificate** or **Recognition of paternity** and **evidence of custody** under German law
- Postage expenses of 7 Swiss Francs
- Visa fee information [here](#)

The German Embassy Bern reserve the right to ask for additional documents at any time during the processing of your application.

Appointment scheduling for this type of visa is possible after your documents have been reviewed. You will then receive a link for booking an appointment. The application can only be submitted in person at your previously booked appointment at the visa section of the embassy (Willadingweg 78, 3006 Bern).

At your appointment, please present all original documents and your [biometric photos](#).

In this visa category, most applications are typically processed within 3 weeks. The processing time can be longer in special cases. Please do not contact the mission abroad to check the status of your application during the normal processing period. Such inquiries are extremely time-consuming for the visa department and cannot be answered. We will contact you by email as soon as the decision has been made.

The visa will be valid for 3 months and allows you to work. You can travel in the entire Schengen area for 90 days per half year.

Please note: Although the information in this information sheet has been prepared with utmost care, we cannot accept any responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.