



Joining my German child for the purpose of custody and care

Last update: January 2025

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

- Personally signed **passport** (original with one copy of the passport data page), with at least two completely empty pages and sufficient validity
- Valid **Swiss residence** permit with one copy
- **Application form** fully completed and signed including declaration to section 54 residence Act: [application form](#) with one copy
- 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 with one copy if applicable with legalization ([more information](#))
- **Recognition of paternity** and **evidence of custody** under German law
- Postage expenses of 7 Swiss Francs
- Visa fee information [here](#)

Please prepare the originals with **one set** of copies of all the indicated documents. Original documents will be return to you while a copy per set will be required. Missing documentation delays the procedure and can result in your application being rejected.

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

In this visa category, most applications are typically processed within 3-12 weeks. 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 month. You should apply for the extension of your visa at the competent migration office at your place of residence.

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