

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR NEWBORN

Information for refugees

Your newborn child's rights in Germany

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is applicable law in Germany. Germany has committed itself to register every child immediately after birth (Art 7 Abs 1 UN-KRK [UNCRC]). Your child must be entered into the **Birth Registry** (Geburtenregister) in order for you to register your newborn child at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) and so that it can have access to medical examinations and other services in Germany. Your child will need a **birth certificate** (Geburtsurkunde) or an **extract from the Birth Registry** (Auszug aus dem Geburtenregister) later in life as well, to enable public authorities to verify its data.

How can you obtain a birth certificate for your child?

The clinic will report the birth to the local civil registry office, which is called the **Standesamt**. You must go to the Standesamt in the district in which your child was born within 4 weeks of its birth. If necessary, an interpreter should accompany you. Ask the staff at the maternity clinic for the address of the Standesamt. Some maternity clinics actually have a Standesamt on the premises.

Here is what you will need to take to the Standesamt:

- Your identity document(s) – valid **passport** (Pass) and **suspension of deportation** (Duldung) or **evidence of registration at the foreigners authority** (Registrierung der Ausländerbehörde)
- Your **birth certificate(s)** (Geburtsurkunde) – both the original document and an officially certified translation, as well as legalisation or apostille
- If you are married: your **marriage certificate** (Heiratsurkunde) or **marriage contract** (Ehevertrag) – both the original document and an officially certified translation, as well as legalisation or apostille

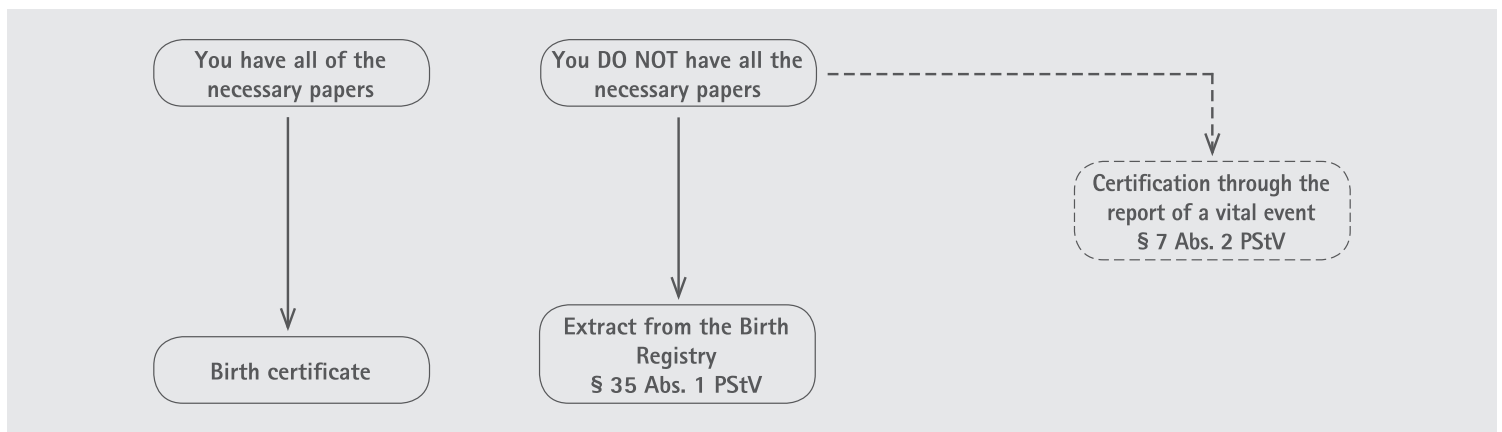
If possible, you should make an appointment at the Standesamt and ask which other documents you may need.

What if you do not have the necessary papers?

Even if you do not have the papers necessary to obtain a birth certificate, you should still go to the Standesamt of the district where your child was born. Because even if you do not have any official documents, your child can still obtain an **extract from the Birth Registry** (Auszug aus dem Geburtenregister), which is also an official document (see § 55 Abs. 1 Nr. 1 and Nr. 4 PStG, § 54 Abs. 1 and 2 PStG [German Civil Status Act]) and § 35 Abs. 1 PStV [Ordinance on Civil Status]). Until the extract from the Birth Registry (§ 35 Abs. 1 PStV) has been issued, you are entitled to a document certifying that your child's birth was reported (**Certification through the report of a vital event** § 7 Abs. 2 PStV). You can use this when applying for benefits/services.

Please note: If you do not have your official documents, your child will be entered in the Birth Registry with its mother's family name for the time being. The name can be changed by a court once you are able to present all of the necessary documents. If you carry out an acknowledgment of paternity and a declaration of joint custody at the competent Youth Office before the birth of your child, it may be possible for the child to be entered in the Birth Registry as having the father's family name despite the absence of official documents.

Paths to the registration of a birth



Talk to your midwives and ask them to put you in contact with the social service staff at the clinic. They can help you.

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