Resolution of the International Commission on Civil Status on information in the event of death, adopted in Paris on 8 October 2026

Preamble

The International Commission on Civil Status, with the participation of delegations from States, international organisations and international actors[1],

Determined to continue developing international cooperation in the field of civil status;

Considering the practice of civil registrars;

Observing the international custom that provides for an obligation on the part of local authorities to provide information in the event of the death of a foreign national within their territory;

Considering Article 37(a) of the Vienna Convention of 24 April 1963 on Consular Relations, which states that "[i]f the relevant information is available to the competent authorities of the receiving State, such authorities shall have the duty:

(a) in the case of the death of a national of the sending State, to inform without delay the consular post in whose district the death occurred";

Given the existence of obligations arising from:

- Convention (No.2) on the issue free of charge and the exemption from legalisation of copies of official records of civil status, signed at Luxembourg on 26 September 1957,
- Convention (No.3) on the international exchange of information relating to civil status, signed at Istanbul on 4 September 1958,
- Convention (No.10) relating to the establishment of death in certain cases, signed at Athens on 14 September 1966,
- Convention (No.26) on the international exchange of information relating to civil status, signed at Neuchâtel on 12 September 1997;

Given the effectiveness of the multilingual instruments created by the Convention (No.16) on the issue of multilingual extracts from civil-status records, signed at Vienna on 8 September 1976 and the Convention (No.34) on the issue of multilingual and coded certificates and extracts from civil-status records, signed at Strasbourg on 14 March 2014;

Having regard to the Resolution of the International Commission on Civil Status on the application of ICCS Conventions Nos.2, 3 and 26 and of the Additional Protocol to Convention No.3, adopted in Paris on 18 September 2025, and the Resolution of the International

[1] List of participants:

- Members: Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, ANF, EVS.
- Observers: Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia.
- Guests: Benin, CLARCIEV, Gabon, Portugal.

Commission on Civil Status on electronic signature and electronic seal, adopted in Paris on 18 September 2025;

Wishing to provide civil registrars and practitioners with a tool designed to facilitate international information sharing in the event of death in a simple manner and to avoid the obstacle of translation;

Adopts the following provisions:

Article 1 – Use of the multilingual forms under Conventions Nos.16 and 34 and provision of a standard information form in the event of death

The International Commission on Civil Status notes that it drafted Conventions Nos.16 and 34, which established multilingual forms of death certificates, thereby granting such certificates greater evidentiary value within the meaning of those Conventions.

The International Commission on Civil Status invites the various States to make use of the aforementioned multilingual forms, after ratifying ICCS Convention No.34, if necessary.

In situations where the use of the aforementioned multilingual forms is not permitted, particularly in the absence of an international convention between the States concerned, such as ICCS Conventions Nos.16 and 34 or ICCS Conventions Nos.2, 3 and 26 and the Additional Protocol to Convention No.3, the International Commission on Civil Status provides States with a standard form for international information in the event of death, designed to simplify the procedures followed by the competent authorities, in particular by avoiding difficulties relating to translation. This document is annexed to this resolution.

Bilateral or multilateral agreements providing for the direct exchange of civil status documents between States remain unaffected.

Article 2 – Legal status and evidentiary value of the standard form

The use of the standard form annexed to this resolution is optional.

The competent authorities are not required to complete all the boxes on the standard form.

If certain information cannot be provided because the issuing authority does not have it or because its national regulations, particularly those relating to the protection of personal data, prohibit it, the boxes in question should be scored through (end mark).

The standard form is drawn up in English and French.

Additional languages may subsequently be added by the International Commission on Civil Status.

States are free to translate the form into other languages, in particular their national languages.

The standard form provides information concerning the occurrence of a death in a State, but does not have the evidentiary value of extracts from civil status records and certificates issued in accordance with the domestic law of the issuing State or issued pursuant to ICCS Conventions Nos.16 and 34. It has the legal effects associated with such a standard form under the domestic law of the receiving State.

Article 3 – Methods of transmission

Information relating to a death, as referred to in Article 1, shall be transmitted in paper or electronic form, in accordance with the rules applicable to the issuing authority and the receiving authority.

The authorities concerned are advised not to rely solely on notification of a death by means of a simple telephone call or orally.

Any requests for clarification made after the transmission of information relating to a death by means of the standard form may be addressed directly between the competent authorities, in particular by telephone or electronic mail, where permitted under the laws of the States concerned.

To the greatest extent possible, information relating to a death shall be provided free of charge, in accordance with the principle of reciprocity between States.

Article 4 – Time limit for information

In accordance with Article 37(a) of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963, the International Commission on Civil Status recommends that information relating to a death be provided “without delay”. It is therefore the responsibility of the competent authority to act as quickly as possible. Except in exceptional circumstances, it should be considered that the information should be transmitted within a maximum of thirty days from the date on which the issuing authority became aware of the death or of the conditions of applicability of the death notice.