

**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**

Preamble

The International Commission on Civil Status, with the participation of delegations from States, international organisations and international stakeholders¹.

Having regard to the current, well-established practice whereby the authorities of the State to which a document is addressed and the authorities of the issuing State exchange documents directly without going through diplomatic missions or consuls, a practice initiated with Convention (No.9) on the decisions concerning rectification of civil-status records, signed at Paris on 10 September 1964 (art. 5) then regularly confirmed in subsequent conventions, in particular Convention (No.17) on the exemption from legalization of certain records and documents, signed at Athens on 15 September 1977 (art. 3) and Convention (No.18) on the voluntary acknowledgment of children born out of wedlock, signed at Munich on 5 September 1980 (art. 10) and also enshrined in the most recent conventions, in particular Convention (No.34) on the issue of multilingual and coded certificates and extracts from civil-status records signed at Strasbourg on 14 March 2014 (art. 5 § 3) and Convention (No. 35) on the issue of certificates of matrimonial capacity and capacity to enter into a registered partnership, signed at Strasbourg on 13 September 2024 (art. 6 § 4).

Noting the need to take account of the plurilingual forms introduced with Convention (No.34) on the issue of multilingual and coded certificates and extracts from civil-status records and bearing in mind that Convention (No.1) on the issue of certain extracts from civil-status records for use abroad, signed at Paris on 27 September 1956 has ceased to be applicable since all the States parties to that text have acceded to Convention (No.16) on the issue of multilingual extracts from civil-status records, signed at Vienna on 8 September 1976, this latter convention being itself no longer open to ratification, and being due to be replaced by the new Convention (No. 34),

Concerned to continue to facilitate the international communication of data relating to civil status,

Adopts the following provisions for the interpretation and application of the following texts:

¹ Delegations from the following States and international organisations attended the meetings: insert here the list of States and international organisations that attended the meetings.

- 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,
- Additional Protocol to the Convention on the international exchange of information relating on civil status, signed at Patras on 6 September 1989 and
- Convention (No.26) on the international exchange of information relating to civil status, signed at Neuchâtel on 12 September 1997,

Article 1 - Direct exchanges between Convention implementing authorities (No. 2)

In order to avoid a very formal procedure and an unnecessary diversion through the diplomatic and consular authorities, the International Commission on Civil Status recommends that Article 2 of the Convention (No. 2) on the free issue and exemption from legalisation of authenticated copies of civil-status records be interpreted from now on as follows:

“The request shall be made by diplomatic missions or consuls to the competent authority designated by each Contracting State in the Appendix to this Convention; it shall indicate briefly the reason for the request – “For official purposes” or “Application on behalf of a poor person””.

in that the request may also be made directly by the authorities of the State requiring a literal copy of or extract from the civil status record to the qualified authority designated by each Contracting State in the Appendix to the Convention.

Article 2 - Models of documents to be used in accordance with Convention (No. 2)

Article 5 of the Convention (No.2) on the issue free of charge and the exemption from legalisation of copies of official records of civil status reads as follows:

“For the purposes of Articles 1, 3 and 4, the expression “civil status records” means:

- *records of births,*
- *records of still-births,*
- *records of acknowledgments of natural children, made or transcribed by civil registrars,*
- *records of marriages,*
- *records of deaths,*
- *records of divorces or transcriptions of divorce decrees or judgments,*
- *transcriptions of court orders, decrees or judgments in matters relating to civil status”.*

For the application of this provision, the International Commission on Civil Status considers that it is possible to make appropriate use of the multilingual forms of Convention (No.16) on

the issue of multilingual extracts from civil-status records and of Convention (No.34) on the issue of multilingual and coded certificates and extracts from civil-status records².

Article 3 - Model notices in use in accordance with the Conventions (Nos. 3 and 26) and the Additional Protocol to the Convention (No. 3)

Convention (No.3) on the international exchange of information relating to civil status introduced two models of notice (model No. 1: model of death certificate; model No. 2: model of marriage certificate).

Subsequently, Article 1 of the Additional Protocol to Convention No. 3 provided as follows.

“1. For the transmission of information concerning the records referred to in Article 1 of the Convention of 4 September 1958, States may use either the forms prescribed in Article 2 of that Convention, or the model multilingual extracts in the Conventions signed at Paris on 27 September 1956 and at Vienna on 8 September 1976, or another model drawn up for the purpose by the International Commission on Civil Status.

2. If sent by post, the notices shall be placed in a sealed envelope”.

In addition, Convention (No. 26) on the international exchange of information relating to civil status has introduced various forms of notices and extracts (form No. 1: rectified birth certificate extract ; form No. 2: marriage certificate extract; form No. 3: rectified marriage record extract; form No. 4: notice of dissolution of marriage; form No. 5: death record extract; form No. 6: rectified death record extract; form No. 7: acknowledgement record extract; form No. 8: rectified acknowledgement record extract).

For sending the notices provided for by Conventions (Nos. 3 and 26) and by Additional Protocol to Convention (No.3), the International Commission on Civil Status considers that the multilingual forms of the Convention (No.16) on the issue of multilingual extracts from civil-status records and of Convention (No.34) on the issue of multilingual coded extracts and certificates of civil status records may be used³.

² This option may only be used by the authorities of the Contracting States, *i.e.* those that have ratified, approved or acceded to the instrument in question: <https://ciecl.org/en/convention/convention-no-16-on-the-issue-of-multilingual-extracts-from-civil-status-records> - <https://ciecl.org/en/convention/convention-no-34-on-the-issue-of-multilingual-and-coded-certificates-and-extracts-from-civil-status-records/>

³ *Ibidem*.