

Name Declaration (surname of a German child)

If, according to German law, the parents of a minor child have a common family name at the time of birth the child automatically receives the same family name. However, if the parents of a German child have separate names they need to choose a family name for their child, despite the fact that the Ghanaian birth certificate may already state a family name.

If the parents are not married and one parent – according to German law – has sole custody, the child automatically receives the family name of this parent. However, a new family name can be declared after shared custody has been established.

If one of the parents has a citizenship other than German citizenship, they first have to choose the respective law for the child.

According to which law is our children's name established and which choices do we have?

1. German law: If both parents are German citizens, German law is automatically applicable for the name of the child. You may either choose the father's or the mother's name. The name choice does also determine the family name of any future siblings.
2. Foreign law: If one parent is a Ghanaian citizen, parents may opt for either German law (options as above) or Ghanaian law and may choose options offered by Ghanaian law. The choice does not automatically have an effect on future siblings.

Please present the following documents - original plus two copies each:

- Birth certificate child
- Passport and/or ID both parents
- Birth certificates both parents
- Proof of German citizenship, e.g. German citizenship certificate/naturalisation certificate/German birth certificate
- Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- Divorce decree (if applicable)
- Certificates on recognition of paternity and declaration of mother's consent (if applicable)
- Birth certificates other joint children of parents (if applicable)
- Registration / deregistration certificate of parent's German hometown (if applicable)

What is the procedure for choosing the last name for our child?

Please make an appointment via e-mail:

info@accra.diplo.de

It is recommended that both parents are present at the appointment for the name declaration. If one parent resides in Germany, the declaration may be submitted at the registry office of his hometown.

Documents will be sent to the competent authority in Germany for further proceedings. Usually, a name certificate is issued within 1-3 months.

What are the fees?

Fees are payable in Ghana Cedis at the Embassy's current exchange rate.

Service	Fee
Certification of copies (1 to 10 pages)	10,00 €
Certification of signatures	25,00 €

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