

Children and legal guardianship

Birth of a child

When a child is born, the hospital or midwife will report the birth to the Tax Agency.

The Tax Agency will register the child's birth in the population register and the child will be given a personal identity number on registration. The child's citizenship and any surname are registered at the same time.

Place of birth

The parish in which the mother is registered counts as the place of birth.

Paternity

If the parents are married, the mother's spouse is registered as the child's father. If they are not married, paternity is usually established through the parents signing a written confirmation of paternity at the Social Welfare Office. The Social Welfare Office will then inform the Tax Agency. If paternity is established by a court judgement, the court will inform the Tax Agency.

Parenthood

Parenthood (instead of paternity) may be established in the case of a woman who is the registered partner or co-habitee of the mother. The partner or co-habitee then becomes registered as parent in the population register. Parenthood is determined by confirmation or court judgement in accordance with the same rules as paternity.

Citizenship

When the child is registered in the population register, the Tax Agency will assess the child's citizenship. If the child's mother is a Swedish citizen, the child will become a Swedish citizen. If the father is a Swedish citizen and the child was born in Sweden, the child will become a Swedish citizen. The child will also become a Swedish citizen if the Swedish father is married to the child's foreign mother. The same applies if the mother is a registered partner or co-habitee of the child's foreign biological mother. If both parents are foreign, the child's citizenship is assessed according to foreign citizenship laws.

If the child has dual citizenship and one is Swedish, then only the Swedish one is registered in the population register.

Name

If the parents have different surnames, you can report to the Tax Agency what surname the child is to have.

If the parents have different surnames and the child has been given the surname of one of the parents, the child can have the other parent's surname as a middle name.

Notification of the child's given name(s) is done by the child's legal guardians within three months of the birth of the child. The Tax Agency will send the form "Anmälan om förnamn" (Reporting a Given Name) to the child's legal guardian(s) after the birth has been registered.

Legal guardians

The concept of guardianship is a legal one. A person who is a child's guardian makes decisions on issues involving the child. Guardianship is not to be confused with everyday care. A child has someone else as its legal guardian until its 18th birthday.

If the child's parents are married, they are both legal guardians of the child. If they are not married, the mother is the child's legal guardian from birth.

The parents can report joint legal guardianship when they confirm paternity. They can also report this later, but it is necessary in such cases for both the parents and the child to be Swedish citizens, and that guardianship has not already been altered at any time. If the parents wish to change guardianship of the child, they can give written notification that both are to be legal guardians or that the other parent is to be the legal guardian. Such an agreement is to be approved by the Social Welfare Office, which will then inform the Tax Agency.

Adoption

Adoption is registered in the population register for the child, the adoptive parents and the biological parents. When a Swedish court has made a decision on an adoption, the court will inform the Tax Agency. If the adoption has taken place abroad, the parents are to report the child's move to Sweden and bring documents proving the adoption.

Want to know more?

This folder offers only superficial information and must not be read as a legal text.

You will find more information on
www.skatteverket.se.

You can also call Tax Information Line
(skatteupplysningen) **0771-567 567**.