

Population registration in Sweden

In order for you to exercise your rights it is important that you are entered into the population register.

You vote and pay taxes in the municipality where you live. If you have been entered into the population register, you are entitled to social benefits and allowances.

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Population register

The population register is where the population of Sweden is registered. It contains information about the people that live in Sweden and about where in the country they reside. The Swedish Tax Agency is responsible for the population register. You can contact the Swedish Tax Agency if you want to: report that you are moving, changing name or getting married. You can handle several of these matters at the Swedish Tax Agency website using your e-identification. You can, for example, report that you are moving without having to send in any paperwork.

Most people who are born in Sweden, or who move here, are entered in the population register. In connection to being registered for the first time, a person will receive a personal identity number. The personal identity number is unique to each person, and you keep it for life. You remain registered in Sweden until the day you move abroad or die.

Being registered is important

Many of your rights and obligations as a private individual depend on if and where you are registered. The right to child and living allowances are, for example, tied **to being** in the population register. You pay your taxes and vote in the place **where** you are registered.

The population register also distributes information about the population to authorities and other parts of society. Having your correct address entered in the population register therefore means that others have access to it, and that you do not have to give notification of your move.

How is the information obtained?

The Swedish Tax Agency receives most of the information in the population register from other authorities. However, you need to notify the Swedish Tax Agency of certain things yourself. This mainly involves your moving or wanting to change your name.

What information is entered in the population register?

The information that can be entered in the population register includes

- name
- address
- personal identity number and co-ordination number
- place of birth
- citizenship
- spouse, children, parents, legal guardians and adoption
- moves to and from Sweden
- addresses abroad
- death and burial site.

Dates are also added to the information, e.g., wedding date.

How is the information in the population register distributed?

Via the population register, all of society has access to information regarding the population. Information regarding the population is distributed to authorities and other parts of society through **Navet** (the Swedish Tax Agency system for distribution of information about the registered population) and **SPAR** (the Swedish population and address register).

This means that authorities and SPAR customers can access information regarding your new address when you move, or your new name when you have changed it, meaning that you no longer have to notify these authorities etc. when you move or change your name. The notification is instead sent automatically.

Navet

Navet is the Swedish Tax Agency system for distribution of information about the registered population. Via Navet, the Swedish Tax Agency distributes such information to other authorities. All altered information is sent on a daily basis to other authorities such as

- The Swedish Social Insurance Agency
- The Swedish Migration Board
- The Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority
- CSN
- The Swedish Transport Agency, including the vehicle and license registers
- The Swedish Pensions Agency

The information is transferred each week to

- the various municipal administrations
- the county healthcare departments (some counties get daily updates).

SPAR

SPAR is a public register that contains all persons that have been entered in the population register. In this register there is also information regarding persons with co-ordination numbers, whose identities have been verified. SPAR is updated every day using new information from the population register.

In order to access the information from the population register through SPAR, you must be a customer of SPAR. SPAR customers include banks, insurance companies and mail-order companies.

Public information and confidentiality

Information in the population register is public, meaning that everyone is entitled to access the information that has been entered in the register.

The Swedish Tax Agency does not provide information if there are special reasons to assume that doing so could be harmful to the persons that the information pertains to or anyone close to them. In such cases, the information is confidential.

Moving within Sweden

Notify the Swedish Tax Agency within a week

When you move within Sweden, you shall notify the Swedish Tax Agency of your move within a week. If your notification is received prior to or within a week of the day you moved, your address will be changed in the population register as of the moving date. If the notification is received later than a week after your move, your address will be changed as of the day the notification was received.

Giving notification of a move is free of charge and if you have e-identification, you can do it directly on the Swedish Tax Agency website, www.skatteverket.se.

You should be registered where you live

As a rule, you should be registered where you live. Your residence is the place where you sleep at night, or where you otherwise sleep at least one seventh of the time, e.g., once a week, twice every other week, three months of the year etc.

If you live in more than one home, this normally qualifies as dual domicile. Which of these homes you must be registered at depends on several circumstances, e.g. if you share one of the homes with your family, where your place of work is, or how much of your time you spend in each of the homes.

Registration of minors

A notification of minors (i.e., persons under the age of 18) changing residence must be signed by their guardian. If the minor has two guardians, they **must** both sign the notification.

Minors that have turned 16 years old are entitled to give notification of moving on their own. If the minor is between the ages of 16 and 18, either the minor or the guardian(s) can sign the notification.

Children are entered in the population register according to the same rules as adults – in other words they have to be registered in the place they live. Children who have dual domicile because their parents don't live together are also registered according to the same rules as adults.

If a child is under the custody of two guardians who don't live together, the child may be registered with either of the two guardians as agreed between them, on condition that the child spends about the same amount of time with both guardians.

The population register does not affect matters of custody, access rights or living arrangements regarding the child.

Are you going to study elsewhere?

If you are over the age of 18 and are moving on the grounds of your academic studies, you must notify the Swedish Tax Agency that you are moving to the place of study.

If you are younger than 18 and have to move away from your parents due to your studies, you should remain registered where they live. This applies while you are completing a secondary or upper secondary (or equivalent) education that you began before you turned 18, but ceases to apply once you turn 21.

Being correctly registered is important!

To receive the social services you are entitled to. These include housing benefits, association grants or domiciliary care.

To have your address distributed from the population register to other parts of society. Having your correct address in the population register means that various authorities and other important actors in society have access to it.

To make sure your mail reaches you. It is important for you to receive community information, payments and bills on time.

To vote where you live. You should be able to affect the municipality you live in. Are you politically active? Remember that you can only be elected in your municipality of residence.

To claim insurance compensation. Most insurance companies require you to be registered at the residence for which you claim compensation for injuries and loss in the event of burglary or fire etc.

To pay the right amount of tax. The taxes you are obligated to pay vary from one municipality to another.

Moving to Sweden

Notification

When you are moving to Sweden, you must notify the Swedish Tax Agency through a personal visit to one of our offices.

Bring the following documents when you come to see us:

- Your passport. If you are a citizen of an EEA country or Switzerland, you can also use a national ID card.
- Residence permit, if you are stateless or a citizen of a country outside the EEA area
- Proof of registration from the Swedish Migration Board as well as documents proving your right of residence (if you are an EEA citizen).
- Marriage certificate, birth certificate or Migration Board residence card, if you are a family member of an EEA citizen with Swedish right of residence.
- Documents to support your marital status.
- Birth certificates for your children, if applicable.

Residence permit

If you are stateless or a citizen of a country outside of the EEA area, you need a Swedish residence permit in order to live here. You can apply for a residence permit at a Swedish embassy or consulate in the country you are intending to leave. The requirement for a residence permit is also applicable to Swiss citizens.

If you are a citizen of the EEA, but do not have right of residence, you may apply for a residence permit from the Swedish Migration Board.

Right of residence

If you are an EEA citizen, you may have right of residence in Sweden. A person with right of residence may live in Sweden without a residence permit. The purpose of this is to facilitate free movement within the EU. You have right of residence and can be entered in the population register if in addition to being an EEA citizen you fulfil any of the following criteria:

- You work, provide services or have your own company in Sweden.
- You are registered as a student at a recognized Swedish educational institution and have comprehensive medical insurance
- You have sufficient assets to support yourself and your family as well as comprehensive medical insurance applicable for you and the members of your family to reside in Sweden.

As an EEA citizen looking for work you may have right of residence in Sweden, but you cannot be entered in the Swedish population register on these grounds. The reason for this is that an EEA citizen looking for work only has the absolute right to reside in Sweden for six months.

Family members of EEA citizens with right of residence may themselves have right of residence and, in that case, do not need a residence permit.

Do you intend to live in Sweden for less than one year?

Contact the Swedish Tax Agency to learn more about the tax regulations that apply to you.

Moving from Sweden

When you are moving abroad

If you move abroad and plan to stay away for a year or longer, you should no longer be in the Swedish population register. In this case, you should notify the Swedish Tax Agency no later than a week prior to your departure that you are moving abroad.

You can order form **SKV 7665** at

- www.skatteverket.se
- The Swedish Tax Agency Customer Service Line: **020-567 000** (direct extension **1305**).

The form is available in both Swedish and English.

What happens if you plan to stay abroad for a period shorter than a year, but then decide to extend your stay? You should notify the Swedish Tax Agency of your move abroad as soon as you have made the decision to stay abroad for more than a year.

Once you move back to Sweden, you should again notify the Swedish Tax Agency, who will then re-enter you into the population register.

Citizenship

You do not lose your Swedish citizenship when you move abroad and no longer remain in the Swedish population register.

If you move to another Nordic country

If you move to another Nordic country (Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Norway), the regulations of that country decide whether or not you should be entered into their population register. You must notify the authorities in the other Nordic country of your move there and inform the Swedish Tax Agency that you are leaving Sweden. You will not be removed from the population register until the other Nordic country has decided whether or not you will be registered there.

Do you live in Sweden as well as abroad?

If you live in Sweden as well as abroad, this may count as a “dual residence”. Dual residence means that you spend at least one seventh of a year both in Sweden and abroad, e.g., once a week, twice every other week, three months of the year etc.

Your country of residence will then be decided by your living situation, i.e., if you live with your family or work in one of the countries. Full-time academic studies are equivalent to work.

When do you cease to be registered in Sweden?

When you move to another country you cease to be registered in Sweden as of the day you move away, as long as you have reported your move no later than on that day. If the notification is received by the Swedish Tax Agency later than that day, you cease to be registered in Sweden as of the day that the Agency received your notification.

Do you intend to study abroad?

The regulations for population registration when staying abroad also apply when you are studying. If you study abroad for a year or longer, you must notify the Swedish Tax Agency that you are moving abroad.

Retain your right to vote

If you are a Swedish citizen and have turned 18 years old no later than on the election day, you will automatically be added to the list of voters, which means that you are able to cast your vote in general elections. You remain on the list of voters for ten years after the day you leave Sweden, meaning that you can vote in general elections even if you live abroad.

If after ten years you wish to remain on the list of voters, you may notify us thereof. If you report a new address abroad to the Swedish Tax Agency, you will automatically be added to the list of voters for another ten years.

Having children

Birth

When a child is born, the hospital or midwife reports the birth to the Swedish Tax Agency who in turn registers the birth in the population register. The child is then registered and is given a personal identity number. In connection thereto, the Swedish Tax Agency registers the child for citizenship and, where applicable, a surname.

Paternity

If you are married when your child is born, the husband is assumed to be the father of the child. If you are not married, paternity must be determined separately. This is normally done by the parents signing an acknowledgement of paternity at the Social Welfare Committee. In connection thereto, you may also report that you wish to have joint custody.

If paternity has been determined by a court judgment, the court will notify the Swedish Tax Agency.

Parenthood

A woman who is married to or who is the registered partner or common-law wife of the child's mother can also be a parent. The woman is then registered as a parent instead of mother in the population register. Parenthood is determined in accordance with the same regulations as paternity.

Custody

Custody is a judicial concept. The person who has custody of a child will make decisions concerning that child, such as the child's residence, etc. Custody must not be confused with daily care.

A child is in the custody of a guardian until the age of 18.

Joint or sole custody

If the parents are married, they automatically have joint custody of their child. If the parents are not married, the mother has sole custody when the child is born. In connection to the establishment of paternity with the Social Welfare Committee, the parents may request joint custody.

The parents can also directly notify the Swedish Tax Agency of joint custody at a later point in time. For this to be possible, there must be no previous decision regarding custody.

Custody by agreement

If the parents wish to change a previous decision regarding custody, they can enter a custody agreement.

The agreement must be approved by the Social Welfare Committee, who then notifies the Swedish Tax Agency.

Names

If you have different surnames, you must report the name chosen for the child to the Swedish Tax Agency as well as any middle names. You should also choose a name, or several, for the child.

No later than three months following the birth of the child, you (the guardians) should notify the Swedish Tax Agency of the given name(s) and surname of the child. In connection with the registration of the birth, the Swedish Tax Agency will send you a form for registration of the names.

Citizenship

When the child is entered into the population register, the Swedish Tax Agency will assess and register the citizenship of the child in accordance with the following:

- A child of a Swedish mother will become a Swedish citizen, whether born in Sweden or abroad.
- A child of a foreign mother and a Swedish father, who are married, will become a Swedish citizen, whether born in Sweden or abroad.
- A child of a foreign mother and a Swedish father, who are not married, will become a Swedish citizen if born in Sweden.
- A child of two foreign parents will receive citizenship in accordance with the legislation in the home country/countries of the parents.

If the child has dual citizenship and one is Swedish, only the Swedish citizenship will be entered in the Swedish population register.

Adoption

An adoption is entered into the population register for the child, the adoptive parents and the biological parents. If a Swedish court has made a decision regarding the adoption, the court will notify the Swedish Tax Agency. If the adoption took place abroad, the adoptive parents shall notify the Swedish Tax Agency that the child has moved to Sweden. In connection with this notification, it is important that you bring all documents proving the adoption.

Names

The Names Act

The taking and changing of names are regulated in the Swedish Names Act, and are entered into the population register. In the Names Act, there are three types of names:

- given names
- middle names
- surnames.

The Names Act applies to all Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian citizens living in Sweden. If you are not a citizen of a Nordic country, but are living in Sweden, you may still notify the Swedish Tax Agency of names and name changes, in accordance with Swedish law.

There is no guarantee that a name change carried out in Sweden will be approved in your country. If you wish to avoid any trouble with the authorities in your country, you should therefore contact your embassy prior to the name change and find out what rules apply.

Given names

No later than three months after birth, everyone is given one or more names. Later in life, you can add, change or remove given names by notification to the Swedish Tax Agency. You can only do this once, and you have to keep one of the names you were given at birth.

If you notify the Swedish Tax Agency, you can also alter the order of your given names, or their spelling, as long as the pronunciation does not change, i.e., Tomas to Thomas or Kristina to Christina. You can give this type of notification more than once.

A given name may not be considered offensive or cause discomfort for the person bearing the name. Nor may it have an obvious surname character.

Middle names

A middle name is a name that you may have to show your relation to a parent or spouse who has the same name as their surname. You may also keep your previous surname as a middle name if you take the surname of your spouse or registered partner. You put the middle name in between your given name and your surname. If you have a middle name, you are free to remove it if you no longer want it.

Surnames

A surname shows relation within a family.

A new-born child automatically receives a surname

- if the parents are married and have the same surname. The child will then have the joint surname of the parents
- if the parents have differing surnames and also have one or more children together in joint custody. The child will then have the same surname as the last born sibling.

In other cases, the child will have one of the parents' surnames, which is reported to the Swedish Tax Agency. If you do not submit a surname within three months of the birth, the child will take the mother's surname.

Later in life, you can change the surname you were given at birth to one of your parents' surnames or to the name that one of your parents had before the marriage.

In connection with getting married, you choose which of your surnames you wish to have once you are married. You may then choose either one of your surnames as a common surname, or to both keep your surnames from before you were married.

Getting married

Marriage and civil partnership

In Sweden, marriage is gender-neutral, i.e., the persons getting married may be either a man and a woman, two women, or two men. A Swedish marriage is valid in most countries, however, there are a few exceptions. Anyone with connections to another country should therefore contact their embassy for further information.

In Sweden it is possible to be wed

- within a religious community, by an authorized registration officiator (religious ceremony)
- before a person appointed as a registration officiator by the County Administrative Board (civil ceremony).

For more information regarding the religious ceremony, contact the religious community in question, for example, a parish in the Church of Sweden. You can book a civil ceremony at the municipal office.

Investigation of impediments to marriage

If you are to be married in Sweden, you must apply for an investigation of impediments to marriage by the Swedish Tax Agency. The Swedish Tax Agency will then investigate whether you are entitled to marry in Sweden. You can get married in Sweden even if neither of you are a resident. Once the investigation of impediments to marriage has been completed, the Swedish Tax Agency issues two certificates which you must give to the registration officiator.

In accordance with Swedish legislation, the following impediments to marriage exist:

- Age – if you are under the age of 18, you may only get married with the permission of the County Administrative Board.
- Kinship – you may not be closely related to the person you are to marry.
- You may not already be married or have a registered partner.

These impediments are always applicable if you are to get married in Sweden, even if neither one of you is a Swedish citizen or resident. If either one of you is not living in Sweden, this person must personally visit the Swedish Tax Agency and prove their identity with a passport or, in some cases, a national ID card showing citizenship. If possible, you should also provide a certificate of your marital status from your country.

Getting married abroad

You may be married abroad by a Swedish or foreign authority.

The Swedish authority may be a Swedish embassy, a Swedish consulate or the Church of Sweden. Contact the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or Church of Sweden in the foreign country in order to find out which embassies or consulates you may be married by, or in which churches.

If you are to be married by a Swedish authority, take the certificate relating to investigation of impediments to marriage. If you are to be married by a foreign authority instead, you may need a marriage license.

If you are married abroad, you must inform the Swedish Tax Agency about this by, e.g., submitting a certificate which proves that the marriage took place. If the Swedish Tax Agency deems that the marriage is valid in Sweden, it is registered in the population register.

Each country has its own particular regulations regarding marriage. It is therefore important that you find out what is necessary by enquiring at the embassy of the relevant country.

Marriage license – getting married abroad

A marriage license is an individual document which shows that you have the right to be married by a foreign authority. The marriage license contains information about you and your prospective wife/husband. Only Swedish citizens may obtain a marriage license.

If you are registered in Sweden you must apply for a marriage license with the Swedish Tax Agency, and if you reside abroad you must contact the nearest Swedish embassy or consulate instead.

Application for investigation of impediments to marriage and marriage license

Apply for investigation of impediments to marriage using form **SKV 7880**. Apply for a marriage license using form **SKV 7881**. Print out or order the forms at www.skatteverket.se/blanketter or via the Swedish Tax Agency's Customer Service Line **020-567 000** (form SKV 7880 dial code **1303** and form 7881 dial code **1306**). Along with these forms you shall also obtain the form "Notification of name of spouse".

Notifications of surnames shall be submitted to the Swedish Tax Agency or the marriage officer at the time of the marriage at the latest, but preferably in connection with the investigation of impediments to marriage.

Dissolution of marriage or partnership

In order to obtain a dissolution of marriage you must contact the District Court. When the District Court has decided for dissolution of marriage, it informs the Swedish Tax Agency directly and the dissolution of marriage is registered. The Swedish Tax Agency registers the dissolution of marriage when it has been finalised. The equivalent applies when a court has ruled for dissolution of a registered partnership.

If you have been divorced abroad, you shall apply for the divorce to be registered in the population register. To do so you must visit the closest service office and request that the dissolution of marriage be registered. You must take your decree of divorce with you. It is important that it is stated on the decree of divorce that it has been finalised. The equivalent also applies to rulings for dissolution of partnerships abroad.

Deaths

Deaths in Sweden

If a person dies in Sweden, a doctor will submit a death certificate to the Swedish Tax Agency. Relatives of the deceased do not need to report the death to the Swedish Tax Agency.

Deaths abroad

If a Swedish citizen dies abroad, the Swedish embassy or consulate in that country shall inform the Swedish Tax Agency as soon as they are aware of the death. If a foreign citizen who lives in Sweden dies abroad, the relatives do not need to inform the Swedish Tax Agency about the death.

Funerals in Sweden

The relatives of the deceased person are usually assisted by a funeral parlour to organise the funeral. If you have questions regarding the funeral you may contact the parish office, cemeteries authority or appropriate denomination.

The certificate that is required in order to bury the deceased is issued upon order by the Swedish Tax Agency once the death has been registered in the population register. Funeral parlours can print out the certificate in their own offices via the Swedish Tax Agency's website.

A person shall be cremated or buried at most one month after their death. When the deceased has been cremated or buried, the cemeteries authority informs the Swedish Tax Agency, which registers the deceased as buried.

Estate inventory

When a person dies, the persons named in the estate (parties to the estate) shall produce an estate inventory. This involves examining and producing a written compilation of the assets and debts of the deceased and any survivors.

As a party to an estate, you may choose to produce the estate inventory yourself or engage professional assistance from a funeral parlour or a law firm.

The estate inventory is usually produced within three months of the death, and is submitted to the Swedish Tax Agency no later than a month after it has been completed.

Personal identity number

All persons who are registered in Sweden are given a personal identity number. The personal identity number is an identity designation that you retain your whole life.

The personal identity number consists of a person's date of birth, a birth number and a check digit. The only information that can be gleaned from your personal identity number is your date of birth and sex.

The sex is specified by the second to last digit, and is odd for males and even for females.

Date of birth

The date of birth is specified by six digits in the population register, in the following order

- year
- month
- day

A person who is born on 23 August 1964 has a registered date of birth of 640823.

Birth number

The birth number consists of three digits and follows the date of birth in the personal identity number.

There is a dash (-) between the date of birth and birth number, which is replaced by a plus sign (+) when a person reaches 100 years of age. The third number in the birth number specifies the person's sex, with an odd number indicating a male and an even number indicating that the person is a female.

Check digit

The last digit in the personal identity number is a check digit. It is calculated automatically from the date of birth and the birth number. This is how you calculate the check digit.

- The digits in the date of birth and the birth number are multiplied alternatively by 2 and 1.

$$\begin{array}{r} 6\ 4\ 0\ 8\ 2\ 3\ -\ 3\ 2\ 3 \\ \underline{2\ 1\ 2\ 1\ 2\ 1\ 2\ 1\ 2} \\ 12,4,0,8,4,3\ 6,2,6 \end{array}$$

- Add the figures in the products. Note! 12 counts as 1 + 2.

$$1 + 2 + 4 + 0 + 8 + 4 + 3 + 6 + 2 + 6 = 36.$$

- The single digit (6) in the total is deducted from the number 10. $10 - 6 = 4$.

The difference (4) becomes the check digit, which means that the personal identity number in the example becomes 640823-3234.

Co-ordination number

Co-ordination number – a form of identification

A co-ordination number is an identification for people who are not or have not been registered in Sweden. The purpose of co-ordination numbers is so that public agencies and other functions in society are able to identify people even if they are not registered in Sweden.

The Swedish Tax Agency allocates co-ordination numbers upon request. All Government authorities and certain private higher education institutions have the right to request co-ordination numbers.

Co-ordination number – ten digits

A co-ordination number, like a personal identity number, consists of ten digits. The first six digits are based on the person's date of birth with the difference that the number 60 is added to the date of birth. For a person who is born on 23 August 1964, the first six digits in the co-ordination number become 640883.

Your co-ordination number is unique

The co-ordination number is to stay with a person their entire life, and no two identical co-ordination numbers can ever exist. If a person who receives a co-ordination number is later registered, the co-ordination number is replaced by a personal identity number.

Addresses of persons with co-ordination numbers

The Swedish Tax Agency registers the addresses of persons with co-ordination numbers. If the identity of a person who has a co-ordination number is established, the Swedish Tax Agency also updates the address in SPAR (see page 2 regarding SPAR).

If you have a co-ordination number and want to register an address with the Swedish Tax Agency, you can do it using the form for Special Postal Address.

24-hour self-service:
www.skatteverket.se,
Customer Service Line: 020-567 000

Personal service:
Call Tax Information
(Skatteupplysningen)
within Sweden: 0771-567 567
from abroad: +46 8 564 851 60



Swedish Tax Agency