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Morocco: Birth registration and issuance of birth certificates

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Introduction

The following note describes the procedures of birth registration and issuance of the Moroccan birth certificates.

The note also includes a description of the three different types of the Moroccan birth certificates: *Acte de naissance* (original birth certificate), *Copie integral de l'acte de naissance* (integral copy of the birth certificate), *Extrait de l'acte de naissance* (extract of the birth certificate).

The note is based on information obtained from meetings with Moroccan authorities conducted in January 2023 in Rabat as well as open source material.

The Moroccan civil registry: *Etat Civil*

The Moroccan civil registry, called *Etat Civil*, consists of two registries: one for death registration and one for birth registration. The birth registry is divided in a paper-based archive and a digital archive.¹ Not all births are registered in the digital archive. However, in the future, the goal is for all births to be registered digitally.²

There are more than 2.400 *Etat Civil* offices (administrative offices) in total in Morocco.³

Birth registration

In Morocco, birth registration is mandatory by law and a birth must be registered within 30 days after a child is born. Moroccans living abroad have one year to register a birth. In the event that the registration takes place when the deadline has expired, the request for registration must be forwarded to the Family Court. The court decision is sent directly from the court to the *Etat Civil*. It does not appear on the birth certificate, if the birth is a late registration, but this information is registered by *Etat Civil*.⁴

¹ Landinfo (2016), p. 7.

² Division de l'Etat Civil, January 2023.

³ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

⁴ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

Registration of birth is free of charge except for the cost of a fiscal stamp, (timbre de fiscal) which costs less than one Euro. If the timeslot for birth registration is not upheld there is a small fee (not a fine), which is less than five Euros.⁵

To register a birth, a note documenting the birth is required. The note must be submitted at the local Muqataa. The note can either be issued by a maternity clinic, the hospital or, in the case of a home birth, an authority referred to as qaïd or muqaddim.⁶

The marriage certificate and ID cards of the parents are required when a birth is registered. The information on the ID card and the marriage certificate are compared as a security precaution by an Etat Civil officer (elected officials) as the information on the marriage certificate and on the ID cards has to be identical. The only required document when a child is born out of wedlock is the hospital note.⁷

Special cases for birth registration

If the father is unknown, the Etat Civil registers the birth with a fictitious first name for the father of the child. If a child is abandoned, the king's prosecutor declares his birth. If the father recognises the fatherhood, his name can appear on the birth certificate. If he does not, he cannot be registered. Children abandoned on Moroccan ground, obtains Moroccan citizenship. If the mother is not Moroccan and the father does not recognise the fatherhood, the child will have the mother's citizenship.⁸

The three different types of the Moroccan birth certificates

In Morocco, there are three different versions of the birth certificate used for different purposes and with different designs. The three types are: Birth certificate, integral copy and an extract of the birth certificate.⁹

The birth certificate is the registration of a birth. The birth certificate is only available for people employed at the Etat Civil and not used by citizens. A person who is registered in the Etat Civil register can get two different "versions" of the birth certificate, depending on what it will be used for: an integral copy of birth certificate (copie intégrale de l'acte de naissance) or an extract of the birth certificate (extrait de l'acte de naissance).¹⁰

The birth certificate contains the data given at that time for registration. The birth certificate contains a geographical code from the Etat Civil office where the birth certificate is registered. The certificate also contains information about the officer who registered the birth certificate, information about the newborn; first name and

⁵ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

⁶ Landinfo, April 2023, p. 11-12.

⁷ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

⁸ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

⁹ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

¹⁰ Landinfo, April 2023, p. 12- 13.

family name in both French and Arabic, gender, place of birth and name of the parents in both French and Arabic.¹¹

The integral copy is a copy of the original birth certificate, but it contains more detailed information about the registered person than the original birth certificate, and is a document continually updated. The document can contain information about marriage and divorce, and more information about the parents of the document owner than registered at the birth certificate.¹²

The extract of the birth certificate contains the document holder's latest status. E.g. if a person changes his or hers family name, the extract will only display the new name. Contrary to the integral copy, which will show both the persons previous name, the new name, and the fact that a name change has taken place.¹³

The most commonly used certificate is the extract of the birth certificate, which only contains the most recent registered information about the person. In some cases the integral copy is used e.g. if there is a different name on the persons passport than on the extract. In that case, the person can be required to bring the integral copy as proof of identity.¹⁴

Validity

The integral copy and the extract of the birth certificate has a validity of three month. For Moroccans abroad, they have a validity of one year.¹⁵

Application and issuance procedure of the integral copy and the extract

The integral copy can be issued where one lives, thus making life easier for the citizens as they do not have to travel to their place of birth to have the document issued.¹⁶

The person who is allowed to have the extract or the integral copy issued on behalf of the newborn is mentioned in the law. It is required that the person applying for a birth certificate is related with the person. The extract or integral copy cannot be issued to someone, who has no kinship with the person whom the birth certificate belongs to.¹⁷

If the mother has to prove her kinship with the person whom the birth certificate belongs to, the birth certificate of the mother is required. If another family member than the mother has to prove kinship, the person have to bring the family book and an ID card of the applicant who is asking for the birth certificate.¹⁸

¹¹ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

¹² Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

¹³ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

¹⁴ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

¹⁵ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

¹⁶ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

¹⁷ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

¹⁸ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

Family book or ID card is enough to obtain one's own birth certificate. On the ID card, the reference number of the birth certificate is mentioned.¹⁹

The extract of the birth certificate can be applied for through the Electronic portal; www.watiqa.ma. When the birth certificate is delivered by post, the applicant needs to show their ID card for verification.²⁰

Layout of the birth certificate

In the period 1915-2021, according to Moroccan law, the extract of the birth certificate was green.²¹ The copy integral was A4 size and most often white, while the extract was smaller.²²

Since the law from 21. July 2021, the way the information is contained is different, but the design of the birth certificate is similar.²³ NIDC is unaware of the exact differences in the design.

The image shows a sample of a Moroccan birth certificate extract (Extrait d'acte de naissance) from 2018. The document is green and contains personal and administrative details of the individual. The header includes the Prefecture of Rabat, the Commune of Rabat, and the Arrondissement of Agdal Riyad. The central part features the Moroccan coat of arms and the text 'Royaume du Maroc Ministère de l'Intérieur'. The main body contains the following information:

- Identifiant Digital Civil - Social:** 9 9
- Numéro d'acte de naissance:** /2018
- Année de registre:** 2018/
- Prénom:** [Redacted]
- Nom:** [Redacted]
- Né(e) le:** [Redacted]
- Année:** [Redacted]
- Correspondant au:** [Redacted]
- Année:** [Redacted]
- Sexe:** Masculin
- Nationalité:** Marocaine
- Fils ou fille de:** [Redacted]
- et de:** [Redacted]
- Mention marginale de décès:** Néant

The bottom section includes the signature of the official, the date 18-01-2023, and a QR code for verification. The footer contains information about the electronic extract and the official's contact details.

Image 1: The extract of the birth certificate (Extrait d'acte de naissance) (NIDC reference material)

¹⁹ Division de l'Etat Civil, January 2023.

²⁰ Division de l'Etat Civil, January 2023.

²¹ Division de l'Etat Civil, January 2023.

²² Landinfo, April 2023, p. 13.

²³ Division de l'Etat Civil, January 2023.

The text is in French and Arabic. By request, the birth certificate can have all the information in Arabic e.g., but the name and family name will always be in both languages.²⁴

If there is not any timbre de fiscal on the birth certificate, it does not mean that the document is not genuine. However, the document needs to be signed and stamped from the correct authority in order to be valid. The stamp of the authority does not go in a specific place on the document.²⁵

Among the information on the extract of the birth certificate, the persons civil and social digital identifier number (IDCS) is shown. This has been implemented with the new Moroccan financial law. Every Moroccan citizen is granted an IDCS number when they are born. The number is unique and randomly generated, and consists of 10 digits.²⁶

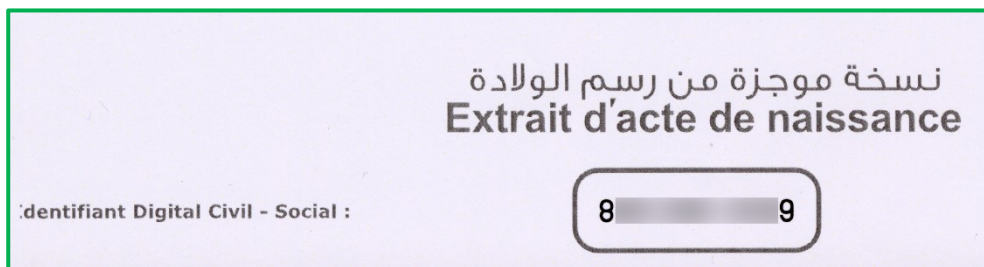


Image 2: Civil and social digital identifier (IDCS) on the extract of the birth certificate. (NIDC reference material)

²⁴ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

²⁵ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

²⁶ Division de l'Etat Civil, Rabat, January 2023.

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Oral source

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