



Swedish Migration Agency

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Embassy of Sweden in Baghdad

Iraqi documents

The Swedish Migration Agency has not been able to find answers to the following questions about Iraqi documents, the Civil Status Directorate and possible journeys abroad for high ranking personnel in the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). Hopefully the Embassy can assist with the help of an attorney-at-law.

Which Iraqi documents can be authenticated?

To what extent have the new national identity cards (البطاقة الوطنية/كارتى نيشتمانى) been issued?

Why is sometimes the signature of the passport holder missing in (apparently) genuine Iraqi passports? What "valid" explanations could there be for this? Are there any differences between the governorates, or is a signature missing just because of negligence on the part of the authorities? Will a signature be required in the new passports (the ones that are to replace the A-series passports), which are under preparation. When will the authorities start issuing the new passports?

Registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorces locally is according to information from UK Home Office and other sources gathered centrally at the Civil Status Directorate in Baghdad. To what extent is the process electronic these days? Thanks to the central (microfiche) archive system it seems to be highly unusual that personal civil ID records go missing. But how have births etc. been registered in areas under control of "Daesh", and are any steps being taken now by the Iraqi authorities to remedy those that were registered by "Daesh" or not at all?

According to the Personal Status Law two witnesses are required for the marriage contract to be initiated. This may apply also when the marriage contract is registered at a Personal Status Court. Is that a fact (that a marriage contract has to be witnessed by two persons) and how many PSCs are there in Iraq?

According to a Norwegian "Landinfo" report, "Iraq: Muslim marriage and divorce", (12 September 2014) the Hanafi tradition may give room for accepting marriage contracts without the usual witnesses, but this practice is not common in Iraq. If it occurs, where is it likely to occur? Would any court approve marriage

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contracts without being certified by witnesses? Is there a new law in Iraq saying that people over the age of 18 do not need witnesses when registering the wedding?

According to the Personal Status Law the marriage contract must also be signed by the couple and the judge. Are there any exceptions to this requirement?

When it comes to journeys abroad for military personnel are there any restrictions to leave Iraq for any category of personnel in the ISF? If there are, are these restrictions different if you're a high ranking officer or have some important function or if you're an ordinary soldier or policeman. Does in this case also the length of the journey abroad matter?

Much obliged for any clarifying and swift answers to these questions.

Yours sincerely