

Are you a Swedish citizen with dual citizenship or do you have a Swedish residence permit? If so, this travel information is for you.





For many years now, Sweden has allowed Swedish citizens to also hold other citizenships. All Swedish citizens are entitled to consular assistance in a consistent and legally secure manner in accordance with the applicable rules. Sweden treats all Swedish citizens based on the same rules, but another country of citizenship may limit what consular assistance the Swedish authorities can provide in that country. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs receives many questions about this. The information below aims to provide answers to some of the most common questions.

If you are a citizen of two countries, you hold dual citizenship. A person who becomes a Swedish citizen can keep their previous citizenship if the law of that country allows it.

All Swedish citizens are entitled to consular assistance, even those who are also citizens of another country. However, their Swedish citizenship may not be recognised by the other country of citizenship. This could limit the ability of Swedish authorities to assist a Swedish citizen in their other country of citizenship. In practice, this could mean, for example, that the authorities in that country will not pass on information to Swedish authorities. If you hold dual citizenship, you should therefore be aware that, in some cases, it may be difficult to receive help if you find yourself in an emergency situation in your other country of citizenship.

When the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) advises against travel

The MFA can advise against travel when the general security situation in an area is substantially affected by social unrest, violence, natural disasters or the risk of serious infectious diseases. The MFA can advise against non-essential travel, which means tourism and visits, or against all travel, which also includes business travel and all other travel. There are also situations in which the MFA advises against all travel and also urges Swedes to leave the country. Advice against travel may also mean that there is limited scope for the MFA/embassy to assist people on the ground.

Travel insurance does not normally apply if the MFA advises against travel. If you decide to travel despite the MFA's advice, you may need to take out additional insurance cover. It is important to check what is included in your travel insurance policy and the conditions that apply for the trip you have booked.

Marriage and custody of children

Marriages entered into in Sweden are not necessarily recognised in all countries, or vice versa. Nor are Swedish divorce or custody decisions automatically recognised everywhere in the world. It is important to check what applies in the other country of citizenship.

In some countries, a parent can impose a travel ban on their child. This can mean that the other parent may not be able to leave the country with the child, even if that parent has custody of the child in Sweden.

Military service

Many countries have compulsory military service. If you are a citizen of one of these countries, you may be liable for military service in that country. The military service obligation may apply even if you are a resident of another country and have become a dual citizen. This means that when you visit your other country of citizenship, you may be called up for military service.

In some countries you could be imprisoned if it appears that you have not done military service. This could happen even if you did not know about the military service obligation or if you

have passed the age for military service. If you hold dual citizenship, we recommend that you contact the authorities in your other country of citizenship to find out about the rules that apply.

Does it matter which passport I travel on?

If you travel on two passports, border police and customs authorities may conduct extra controls. One of the passports may lack an entry or exit stamp. Your reason for travelling on two passports may also be questioned. In some countries, one of your passports may be confiscated and you may be fined. You may even be prevented from leaving the country. Swedish authorities have no influence over the laws of another country if, for example, you are denied entry or exit. In the same way, other countries have no influence over Sweden's laws. You can always seek consular assistance from a Swedish mission abroad, but if you enter your country of other citizenship on that country's passport you should be aware that the local authorities may claim that Sweden is not entitled to assist you in the event of an emergency situation.

What happens if I lose the passport of my other citizenship?

If you lose a passport other than your Swedish passport, you should contact the issuing country's embassy/consulate to apply for a new one. If you lose the passport in the other country, you should apply for a new passport at the country's own passport authority.

What happens if I lose my Swedish residence permit (temporary or permanent) when I am abroad?

Passports and residence permits are valuable documents and should be treated as such. Be sure to check the expiry date of your permit before you travel abroad. If you lose your Swedish residence permit while you are abroad, you should report this to the local police. You can then contact the nearest Swedish embassy and order a new permit on presentation of your police report. Only embassies that deal with migration issues and the necessary equipment can accept orders for a new residence permit. To receive a new residence permit, you must be able to prove your identity. When you have ordered a new permit from an embassy, the lost permit is cancelled. It normally takes several weeks for the new permit to arrive at the embassy and be issued.

If you are in a country where Sweden does not have an embassy, or where the embassy does not deal with migration issues or lacks the equipment needed to issue residence permits, you can contact the nearest Swedish that deals with migration issues. That embassy will then consult with the Swedish Migration Agency on how to best resolve the situation.

It is important to remember that Swedish aliens' passports and Swedish travel documents may be subject to restrictions that exclude travel to a former country of origin.

What happens if I fall ill in another country of citizenship?

If you fall ill in another country of citizenship you should, in the first instance, turn to the public health system that serves the citizens of that country. However, people who hold one or more citizenships are always entitled to apply for consular financial assistance. Remember that it is important to have valid travel insurance that covers you for the duration of your trip and that is valid in the country or region you are travelling to.



Can I receive consular financial assistance in an emergency situation in my other country of citizenship?

If you are a Swedish citizen with dual citizenship and find yourself in serious financial difficulties in your other country of citizenship that neither you nor your relatives can resolve, your first step should be to contact the local authorities as a citizen of that a country. If the situation still cannot be resolved, you can apply for consular financial assistance at a Swedish embassy or consulate.

If your application is approved, the financial assistance you receive will be in the form of a loan and must be paid back. This applies equally to all Swedish citizens who receive consular financial assistance. As a rule, you need to be a Swedish citizen and resident in Sweden to be entitled to financial assistance. Moreover, the emergency situation must not have been self-inflicted. This means that you must have taken reasonable measures before leaving Sweden, such as ensuring that you have a return ticket, travel insurance and money for your keep. In addition, it must be shown that the situation cannot be resolved in any other way, for example through the assistance of relatives or other Swedish authorities. Everyone who is given a loan must repay the full loan amount plus an administrative fee.

The MFA and Sweden's embassies can also help and provide support to stateless persons and refugees resident in Sweden who find themselves in an emergency situation abroad. If you have a permanent residence permit and live in Sweden, you may in certain circumstances be entitled to receive consular financial assistance.

What applies if I am detained abroad?

If you are arrested by the police or detained when in another country, the law of that country always applies. If you are uncertain, we recommend that you find out about the laws and regulations of the country you are travelling to. Swedish authorities cannot influence legal proceedings in another country, just as authorities of other countries cannot influence ours. According to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, if you are detained you must be informed of your right to have your country's embassy informed about your situation. If you wish, the embassy can also request permission to visit you and the MFA can inform and maintain contact with your relatives.

What assistance can the MFA provide if someone dies abroad?

When someone dies abroad, the MFA can help to obtain information about the incident from the local authorities. If insurance cover is in place, the insurance company normally takes care of the necessary practical arrangements.

If insurance cover is not in place, the MFA can provide relatives with advice about repatriating the deceased or arranging a local funeral. The MFA or the embassy does not pay for the ashes or the body of a deceased person to be returned to Sweden.



More information

swedenabroad.se | regeringen.se/resklar | facebook.com/udresklar

Other language versions of this information are also available at government.se/dualcitizenship