© Jutta Anger/PIXELIO

Copy protection for civil status certificates

The Ordinance on Civil Status requires
"...highest possible security against counterfeiting attempts"

Forgery-proof
civil status certificates

- Several effective safety elements
- Compatible with AutiSta software
- No new hardware or software required
- All formats and designs available,
  from now on also in DIN A5 format
- Special paper without optical brightener

Best to test
Original samples
yourself...

*It is the responsibility of each registry office to use a **paper with** the **prescribed quality requirement**s for the printing of civil status certificates.*

Quality requirements for the paper:
The Ordinance on Civil Status specifies minimum requirements for the quality and security of the paper to be used.
This is stated in § 48 Para. 4 PStV: *„The paper of the documents must at least meet the quality requirements according to DIN 19307 - ASM 80. Writing materials must ... guarantee the highest possible security against forgery attempts."*
But all the papers used so far neglect the safety aspect!

The weakness of standard papers

The weakness of standard papers

The standard white paper normally used fulfils the quality requirements according to DIN 19307, but offers no security against forgery attempts. Even the brightly printed eagle is less and less able to guarantee security against counterfeiting attempts in view of constantly improving copying machines and scanners.

Unauthorised copies

Precisely for this reason, another problem arises: The constantly increasing copying of civil status documents (birth / marriage / death) – partly also by individual funeral directors.
As a result, the registry offices are missing out on a not inconsiderable amount of fees for multiple copies.

Recognise manipulations

Nowadays, even experts find it difficult to clearly distinguish the original from a colour copy or a colour printout. And every unauthorised multiple copy carries the risk that it no longer corresponds 100 % to the original. However, manipulations by altering, adding or covering up individual details are no longer visible on the copies.

The aim

Standardised document paper

As early as 2011, the state association of registrars in Baden-Württemberg suggested that our security paper, which won the "VR Innovation Award", should also be used for civil status certificates. The primary goal was to develop a nationwide, standardised, secure document.
In close cooperation with the state association and the competent authorities, a security paper was developed that meets all requirements of the PStV to a high degree.

The solution: Paper with security elements

The integration of new, effective security elements in the corresponding paper reliably solves these problems. Different security elements are used:
1. **Combination element EAGLE** – a combination of watermark and light grey shading results in a security element that cannot be copied or scanned.
   The advantage: No tools are required to check for authenticity, a glance against the light is enough!
2. **Automatic copy protection KOPIE/COPY** – copy protection that is practically invisible to the naked eye, which automatically marks every copy of the original with the words "KOPIE/COPY".
3. Use of a special paper without optical brighteners – an internationally widespread security feature for certificates and identity cards. A simple UV lamp (banknote tester) is sufficient for checking.

Nationwide approval

In agreement with the Ministries of the Interior and Senate Administrations for the Interior of the federal states, the BMI authorises the use of this document paper for the printing of civil status documents in accordance with § 48 of the Civil Status Ordinance (Annexes 6 to 9 PStV) and for the production of the certificate in accordance with § 31 Abs. 3 PStV (Annex 13 PStV).
According to the BMI, the absence of optical brighteners is desirable (Leaflet VII1-20103/78#1 dated 23/03/2015).

Info about the practical application
- Switching to this security paper does not require any new hardware or software.
- This paper has been tested by the VfSt and is fully compatible with the AutiSta software.
- All formats and designs available – DIN A4 and family album formats 13 x 20 cm and DIN A5.
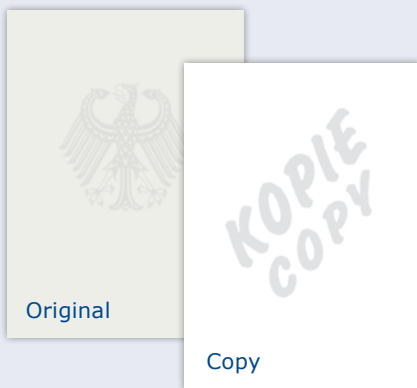
Versions and formats

There are 3 standard formats for printing civil status documents:
The DIN A4 format and the traditional 13 x 20 cm and DIN A5 formats. Additional variants are available for all formats, e.g. with a RED decorative line or with 6-hole punching.
All document papers can be printed just as easily as your existing paper.

Registry office paper in DIN A4

Original

Copy

DIN A4 Standard
- DIN A4 portrait format, NEUTRAL
- With EAGLE combined security element
- Double-sided, copy protection KOPIE/COPY
- Paper thickness 100 g, to DIN 19307, special paper without optical brightener
- <u>Option</u>: with additional RED decorative line

<u>Delivery quantities:</u>
- In bundles of 100 (standard packaging)
- In boxes of 2,500 (for bulk buyers)

Registry office paper in register book and DIN A5 format

Original

Copy

Family book format
- 13 x 20 cm portrait format, NEUTRAL
- DIN A5 portrait format, NEUTRAL
- With EAGLE combined security element
- Double-sided, copy protection KOPIE/COPY
- Paper thickness 100 g, to DIN 19307, special paper without optical brightener

<u>Further options:</u>
- Additionally with RED jewellery line
- Additionally with 6-hole punching

Registry office paper in combi format

Original

Copy

A4 combi format with perforation for folding to album format
- Print format: DIN A4 (portrait format)
- Final format open: 29.7 x 20 cm
- Final format folded: 13 x 20 cm
- Portrait format, with RED decorative line
- With EAGLE combined security element
- Double-sided, copy protection KOPIE/COPY
- Paper thickness 100 g, to DIN 19307, special paper without optical brightener

<u>Further option:</u>
- Additionally with 6-hole punching

Register printouts in DIN A4
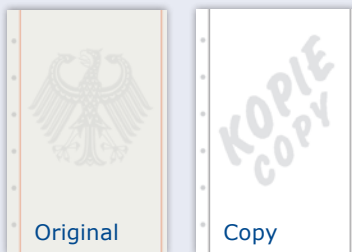
Original

Copy

Security paper for register print-outs and transcripts in accordance with Section 48 (1) PStV - Annexes 2-5, 10 and 12

DIN A4 Standard
- DIN A4 portrait format, neutral
- double-sided with copy protection KOPIE
- Paper thickness 100 g, to DIN 19307, special paper without optical brightener

Important note
According to paragraph 48 (1) PStV, annexes 2-5, 10 and 12 must be created in A4 format.
Therefore, all documents (also in A4 format) are no longer required with immediate effect
- *without optical brightener*
- *without eagle*
- *with copy protection on both sides KOPIE/COPY.*

*The **NEW special papers** with the **copy protection KOPIE** can be used for this purpose!*

FAQ – Frequently asked questions

How can I recognise an ORIGINAL copy?

Quite simply: on the forgery-proof EAGLE combination element!

When viewed against the light, an additional watermark contour becomes visible around the eagle. And because this watermark effect cannot be copied or scanned, this watermark contour is guaranteed to be missing on every copy.

Conclusion: If this outline is visible as a watermark, it is clearly an ORIGINAL.

Almost all white papers contain optical brighteners that glow bluish-white under a UV lamp (e.g. note validator). The special paper we use without optical brighteners does not glow during UV testing, which clearly distinguishes it from standard papers.

How does the additional copy protection KOPIE/COPY work?

This security element is practically invisible and only appears when copying. It ensures that every copy of the original is automatically labelled "KOPIE/COPY". In addition, this security background makes any attempt at manipulation immediately visible.

How do manipulations become visible?

Manipulation usually involves changing, adding or covering up individual details. Even careful masking or erasing leaves lighter-coloured areas on the full-surface security background. Such changes are much more visible on the security paper than on white paper.

Can this paper be used by all registry offices?

YES – immediately and without any restrictions. Since July 2013, the BMI has authorised the use of this document paper for the printing of civil status documents (in accordance with Section 48 of the Civil Status Ordinance) in agreement with the relevant state authorities.

The improved version of our security document paper without optical brighteners was also authorised for nationwide use by the Federal Ministry of the Interior in December 2014.

Is this new paper standardised nationwide?

YES – there are no differences at country level. All security features are exclusively used in this type and design for this document paper. This means that the goal of using a standardised security paper nationwide can be achieved – without having to wait for a legal regulation.

Are the security authorities aware of this paper?

YES – both the relevant specialist departments of the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police have reference samples and instructions for checking the security elements.

How high are the costs?

Of course, the costs for a sheet of security paper are higher than for a blank sheet of paper.

Equipping the paper with the aforementioned security elements is technically demanding and costly.

However, it is important to consider the costs in relation to the benefits (additional fee income).

Seen in this light, the additional EXPENSES very quickly turn into additional INCOME!

This is because the "break-even point" is as low as 3-4% of the additional additional copies issued!

Are there several manufacturers of this paper?

NO – because patented techniques are required to produce this security paper.

The copy protection is a proprietary development of our company and is protected by a European patent.

02.2024