



DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS IN TENNESSEE

PRENUPTIAL INVESTIGATION

(For all marriages, including validations and sanations)

Groom: _____ Bride: _____

Place of Marriage: _____
Name of Church City & State

Date of Wedding: _____ (Include a copy of signed civil marriage certificate in the file.)

Witnesses: _____ and _____

Priest/Deacon Officiating at Marriage: _____

If validating a civil union or seeking a sanation, date of the civil ceremony: _____

DELEGATION

For a Catholic marriage to be contracted validly, the priest or deacon receiving the vows must be the pastor of the territory where the marriage takes place, the local ordinary, or someone delegated by one of them. If you are assisting at a marriage outside of the territory to which you are assigned, you must obtain delegation.

Delegation granted (if needed) by: _____ Date: _____

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Baptismal Certificates** (and Profession of Faith Certificates) for bride and groom (issued within the last six months)
- Two Witness Affidavits** for bride and **two Witness Affidavits** for groom attesting to freedom to marry*
- Declaration of Nullity Decree(s)** (if applicable)
- Death Certificate(s)** (if applicable)*

For a baptized non-Catholic, a **Baptismal Certificate** OR **two Witness Affidavits** attesting to baptism

- Certificate of Completion** of Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program
- Certificate of Completion** of Natural Family Planning Class
- Certificate of Completion** of FOCCUS Inventory
- If a dispensation or permission is needed, complete the *Petition for Dispensations & Permissions* on page 8, and forward all of the above to the Office of the Chancellor.
- If the wedding will be celebrated outside the Diocese of Memphis, attach the *Testimonial Letters or Nihil Obstat* form and mail all the above documents to the Office of the Chancellor. The form can be found at www.cdom.org/chancellor.

* If the priest/deacon preparing the couple knows with certainty that both parties have not been married previously or that a previous spouse is deceased, these documents are not necessary. If, however, the wedding will take place outside of the Diocese of Memphis, they are required.



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

RITE: If the groom and/or bride are Eastern Catholic or Eastern Orthodox, only a priest may assist at the wedding, not a deacon. If you have any questions, please call the Chancery.

CANONICAL FORM: Catholics are to be married before a properly delegated Catholic priest or deacon and two witnesses. Dispensations from canonical form may be granted when only one party is Catholic.

NUPTIAL MASS: A marriage between two Catholics is usually celebrated during Mass, though Mass is not strictly required. A marriage between a Catholic and a baptized Christian is usually celebrated outside of Mass. A marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized person may never be celebrated during Mass.

DISPENSATION/PERMISSION/DELEGATION: Obtain any permission/dispensation from the Catholic bishop in whose diocese the Catholic groom/bride lives, regardless of where the marriage ceremony will occur. Please keep the record in the file.

- If a Catholic is marrying a non-baptized person, obtain a dispensation from Disparity of Cult.
- If a Catholic is marrying a (validly) baptized non-Catholic, obtain permission for a Mixed Marriage. (Priest and deacons who have faculties from the Bishop of Memphis can give this permission.)
- If a Catholic will be married by a non-Catholic officiant, obtain a dispensation from canonical form. (This is possible only when one of the parties is *not* Catholic.)
- If officiating at a marriage of two Catholics and neither is your parishioner, obtain permission from the Catholic's proper pastor.
- If officiating at a marriage outside your assigned parish, obtain delegation from that pastor or a local ordinary.
- See the *Petition for Dispensations & Permissions* for a list of dispensations and permissions.

INTERFAITH/ECUMENICAL WEDDINGS: It is forbidden for the Catholic minister in a religious celebration of marriage and the non-Catholic minister, each performing his own rite, to ask together for the consent of the parties.

VALIDATION OF A CIVIL MARRIAGE: If the parties have attempted marriage civilly and now wish to marry each other in the Catholic Church, then at the Catholic ceremony they must have the intention of giving marital consent as if they were not already married. There is no "blessing" of an already existing union.

MARRIAGE FILE: The marriage file is kept in the parish where the marriage with canonical form occurred. If the marriage takes place at a university chapel, hospital, etc., the marriage file is kept at the parish in whose territory the place is located. When the marriage ceremony occurred with a dispensation for lack of canonical form, the marriage file is kept in the parish where the prenuptial investigation and the request for dispensation from canonical form occurred.

WEDDINGS OUTSIDE OF THE DIOCESE: If the marriage ceremony is to occur outside the Diocese, the marriage file is to be sent to the Chancery with the Testimonial Letters form attached. Keep a copy for your records.

GROOM

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____
Number/Street (include Apartment/Unit #) City/State/Zip Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Home/Work/Cellular: (Area Code) Number

Father's Name: _____ Religion: _____
(If Eastern Catholic, indicate rite)

Mother's Name: _____ Religion: _____
(Include mother's maiden name) (If Eastern Catholic, indicate rite)

Religion: _____ Did it ever change? _____
*If not baptized, obtain a dispensation from Disparity of Cult. If yes: When/What Religion(s)

Place of Baptism: _____
(Obtain recently issued baptismal certificate) Name of Church City/State Date

Profession of Faith (if applicable): _____
(Obtain recently issued certificate, if not already noted on baptismal certificate) Name of Parish City/State

Have you received First Holy Communion? Yes No _____
(If not, arrange for preparation and reception of sacraments) If yes: Name of Church City/State Date

Have you received Confirmation? Yes No _____
(If not, arrange for preparation and reception of sacrament) If yes: Name of Church City/State Date

Respond to the following and explain any responses marked with an asterisk (*). For ##4-17, an asterisked response may prevent a couple from marrying. Contact the Chancery if you have any questions.

1. How long have you known the bride? _____ Length of courtship? _____ Length of engagement? _____

2. Do you regularly participate in the practice of your faith? Yes No*

3. Are you contracting marriage: A) for the purpose of truly seeking marriage itself or B) for some other purpose? A B*

4. Have you ever been married before in any kind of civil or religious ceremony? (If yes, go to page 7) Yes* No

5. Have you ever been ordained to the Catholic priesthood or diaconate? Yes* No

6. Have you or your fiancée ever made a public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute? Yes* No

7. Are you related to your fiancée by blood, by marriage, or by adoption? Yes* No

8. Have you ever experienced or been treated for any psychological/emotional/addiction-related difficulty? Yes* No

If yes, is it resolved? Yes No*

9. Have you undergone surgery in order to attempt a sex-change or in any other manner taken measures in an attempt to change your gender? Yes* No

10. Have you ever been diagnosed with impotence? Yes* No
11. Do you intend to form a common partnership of life and love with your spouse? Yes No*
12. Do you intend to be open to the procreation of children? Yes No*
13. Do you intend to fulfill your obligation to educate your children? Yes No*
14. Do you intend to make a permanent commitment until the death of your spouse? Yes No*
15. Do you intend to be faithful to your spouse throughout the entire marriage? Yes No*
16. Are you consenting to this marriage freely and willingly, without being forced or pressured by anyone or any circumstance? (If there is suspicion of pressure being exerted, an explanation is needed.) Yes No*
17. Are you placing any conditions on this marriage, or do you have any serious reservations about this marriage? Yes* No
18. Would your fiancée agree with your answers to these questions if she knew them? Yes No*
19. Is there any important fact about you which you have not shared with your fiancée? (e.g., addictions, illness, trouble with the law, indebtedness, sterility, sexuality, child from a prior relationship, etc.) Yes* No
20. (If groom or bride is age 17 or younger) Do your parents consent to this marriage? Yes No*
21. Have you signed or do you intend to sign a prenuptial agreement? (If yes, attach a copy of the agreement) Yes* No
22. Do you have any children from any previous relationship? Yes* No
- If yes, are the moral and civil responsibilities to any former spouse(s) and any child(ren) being fulfilled? Yes No*

Explain here any response given above which included an asterisk ():*

I swear that all the information I have given above is the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

Signature of Groom

Date Signed

Signature of Priest or Deacon

Type/Print Name

Place Signed

[Parish Seal]

BRIDE

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____
Number/Street (include Apartment/Unit #) City/State/Zip Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Home/Work/Cellular: (Area Code) Number

Father's Name: _____ Religion: _____
(If Eastern Catholic, indicate rite)

Mother's Name: _____ Religion: _____
(Include mother's maiden name) (If Eastern Catholic, indicate rite)

Religion: _____ Did it ever change? _____
*If not baptized, obtain a dispensation from Disparity of Cult. If yes: When/What Religion(s)

Place of Baptism: _____
(Obtain recently issued baptismal certificate) Name of Church City/State Date

Profession of Faith (if applicable): _____
(Obtain recently issued certificate, if not already noted on baptismal certificate) Name of Parish City/State

Have you received First Holy Communion? Yes No _____
(If not, arrange for preparation and reception of sacraments) If yes: Name of Church City/State Date

Have you received Confirmation? Yes No _____
(If not, arrange for preparation and reception of sacrament) If yes: Name of Church City/State Date

Respond to the following and explain any responses marked with an asterisk (*). For ##4-16, an asterisked response may prevent a couple from marrying. Contact the Chancery if you have any questions.

1. How long have you known the groom? _____ Length of courtship? _____ Length of engagement? _____
2. Do you regularly participate in the practice of your faith? Yes No*
3. Are you contracting marriage: A) for the purpose of truly seeking marriage itself or B) for some other purpose? A B*
4. Have you ever been married before in any kind of civil or religious ceremony? (If yes, go to page 7) Yes* No
5. Have you or your fiancé ever made a public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute? Yes* No
6. Are you related to your fiancé by blood, by marriage, or by adoption? Yes* No
7. Have you ever experienced or been treated for any psychological/emotional/addiction-related difficulty? Yes* No
If yes, is it resolved? Yes No*
8. Have you undergone surgery in order to attempt a sex-change or in any other manner taken measures in an attempt to change your gender? Yes* No

9. Have you ever been diagnosed with impotence? Yes* No
10. Do you intend to form a common partnership of life and love with your spouse? Yes No*
11. Do you intend to be open to the procreation of children? Yes No*
12. Do you intend to fulfill your obligation to educate your children? Yes No*
13. Do you intend to make a permanent commitment until the death of your spouse? Yes No*
14. Do you intend to be faithful to your spouse throughout the entire marriage? Yes No*
15. Are you consenting to this marriage freely and willingly, without being forced or pressured by anyone or any circumstance? (If there is suspicion of pressure being exerted, an explanation is needed.) Yes No*
16. Are you placing any conditions on this marriage, or do you have any serious reservations about this marriage? Yes* No
17. Would your fiancé agree with your answers to these questions if he knew them? Yes No*
18. Is there any important fact about you which you have not shared with your fiancé? (e.g., abortions, addictions, illness, trouble with the law, indebtedness, sterility, sexuality, child from a prior relationship, etc.) Yes* No
19. (If groom or bride is age 17 or younger) Do your parents consent to this marriage? Yes No*
20. Have you signed or do you intend to sign a prenuptial agreement? (If yes, attach a copy of the agreement) Yes* No
21. Do you have any children from any previous relationship? Yes* No
- If yes, are the moral and civil responsibilities to any former spouse(s) and any child(ren) being fulfilled? Yes No*

Explain here any response given above which included an asterisk ():*

I swear that all the information I have given above is the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

Signature of Bride

Date Signed

Signature of Priest or Deacon

Type/Print Name

Place Signed

[Parish Seal]

PRIOR MARRIAGE(S) OF GROOM

How many times were you married in **any type of ceremony**? _____

NOTE: When there is a prior marriage NO wedding ceremony can be scheduled until a) the final Decree(s) of Nullity/Dissolution is granted by the Catholic Church; or b) the certificate of death of the spouse is presented. If the priest/deacon is certain of the death of the prior spouse, a certificate of death is not required.

Spouse #1: _____ Date of Marriage Ceremony: _____

Place of Ceremony (Name & City): _____ Title of Officiant: _____

How did this marriage end? Death of Spouse Divorce Declaration of Nullity

Spouse #2: _____ Date of Marriage Ceremony: _____

Place of Ceremony (Name & City): _____ Title of Officiant: _____

How did this marriage end? Death of Spouse Divorce Declaration of Nullity

Attach a copy of the death certificate, civil divorce/annulment decree, the decree of nullity, or the decree of dissolution.

PRIOR MARRIAGE(S) OF BRIDE

How many times were you married in **any type of ceremony**? _____

NOTE: When there is a prior marriage NO wedding ceremony can be scheduled until a) the final Decree(s) of Nullity/Dissolution is granted by the Catholic Church; or b) the certificate of death of the spouse is presented. If the priest/deacon is certain of the death of the prior spouse, a certificate of death is not required.

Spouse #1: _____ Date of Marriage Ceremony: _____

Place of Ceremony (Name & City): _____ Title of Officiant: _____

How did this marriage end? Death of Spouse Divorce Declaration of Nullity

Spouse #2: _____ Date of Marriage Ceremony: _____

Place of Ceremony (Name & City): _____ Title of Officiant: _____

How did this marriage end? Death of Spouse Divorce Declaration of Nullity

Attach a copy of the death certificate, civil divorce/annulment decree, the decree of nullity, or the decree of dissolution.

DECLARATION FOR MIXED MARRIAGES AND DISPARITY OF CULT

Note: If one of the parties is not Catholic, this section must be completed.

CATHOLIC PARTY:

I hereby state that I am prepared to remove dangers of falling away from the Catholic faith. I sincerely promise to do all in my power to have all the children baptized and brought up in the Catholic Church.

Signature of the Catholic Party

NON-CATHOLIC PARTY:

I am clearly aware of the obligation of my Catholic spouse to preserve and profess his/her faith and to do all that is possible to baptize and to educate the children of our marriage in the Catholic Church.

Signature of Non-Catholic Party



PETITION FOR DISPENSATIONS & PERMISSIONS

Most Reverend Bishop:

I request the dispensations/permissions indicated below.

DISPENSATION FROM THE IMPEDIMENT OF:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disparity of Cult [Not baptized] (c. 1086) | <input type="checkbox"/> Affinity (c. 1092) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disparity of Cult <i>ad cautelam</i> (c. 1086) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Propriety (c. 1093) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consanguinity [first cousins] (c. 1091) | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Relationship by Adoption (c. 1094) |

The reason(s) for this request:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Removal of serious scandal | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual wellbeing of the Catholic party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual help in advanced age | <input type="checkbox"/> Validation of an invalid marriage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danger of invalid marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> Well-founded hope of the conversion of the non-Catholic party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legitimation of children | |

PERMISSION FOR A MARRIAGE WITH:

- Pre-Nuptial Agreement (copy attached)

DISPENSATION FROM CANONICAL FORM

Place of Wedding (Name & Location): _____

Name & Title of Officiant: _____

Name of any Catholic Priest or Deacon to attend: _____

Telephone (of Catholic Priest or Deacon to attend): _____

The reason(s) for this request:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> To achieve family harmony and avoid alienation | <input type="checkbox"/> Special friendship with the officiant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close family connection with the particular Church | <input type="checkbox"/> To obtain parental agreement to marriage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

Signature of Pastor/Parochial Vicar/Deacon

Parish

Print Name

Date

Please send this petition and all accompanying documents to the Office of the Chancellor at least one month before the wedding.

Rescript

I hereby grant the requested dispensations/permissions.

Bishop of Memphis/Vicar/Delegate Date: _____ Prot. No.: _____