

# **Prenuptial Investigation**

| Groom:                             | Bride:                                        |  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--|
| Religion:                          | Religion:                                     |  |
| Date of the Wedding:               | Time:                                         |  |
| Location of Wedding:               |                                               |  |
| Date of Rehearsal:                 | Time:                                         |  |
| Celebrant:                         |                                               |  |
| Best Man/Witness #1:               |                                               |  |
| Maid of Honor/Witness #2:          |                                               |  |
| Chancery Number:                   | Entered in Marriage Register: VolumePageItem: |  |
| Permission/Dispensation(s) Granted | l:                                            |  |

## **REQUIRED PROCEDURES**

- 1. Ordinary cases: Pre-Nuptial Form/Documents are filed in the parish church where the marriage takes place.
- 2. If a priest/deacon goes to another Catholic Church to witness a marriage:
  - a. Obtain delegation from the proper pastor. This is necessary for VALIDITY.
- 3. Cases of MIXED RELIGION/DISPARITY OF CULT (even *ad cautelam*) when the marriage is to be celebrated according to the Catholic Form in a place other than a Catholic church:
  - a. Permission/Dispensation must be obtained from the Chancery. If the marriage is to take place in a place other than a church, Permission must also be obtained from the local ordinary.
  - b. Priest/Deacon is to obtain the delegation of the Catholic pastor in whose territory the place is located. This is required for the VALIDITY.
  - c. Pre-Nuptial Form/Documents are to be filed in the Catholic parish in whose boundaries the marriage took place.

### 4. Dispensation from CANONICAL FORM

(When a wedding between a Catholic and non Catholic will not be witnessed by a Catholic Clergyman)

- a. If the marriage is to take place in another diocese, the priest/deacon must request dispensation far enough in advance to allow time to contact the local ordinary of the place where the marriage it to take place (Canon 1127 § 2).
- b. The Pre-Nuptial Form/Documents must be filled in the parish from where the dispensation was requested.
- 5. After the marriage ceremony, the priest/deacon must send notices to:
  - a. The Chancery that granted the dispensation from Canonical Form.
  - b. The Chancery that granted the permission for Mixed Marriage (if this is another Chancery)
  - c. The parish of baptism of the Roman Catholic Party.

How many times have you been married? 1. 2. 3. Religion of Person: Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_Place:\_\_\_\_\_ 4. 5. Officiant: Title: If former spouse is deceased: 6. Date of Death:\_\_\_\_\_\_Place:\_\_\_\_\_\_ (copy of death certificate must be filed with the pre-nuptial form) If a former marriage was dissolved or declared null by the Church, give: 7. Diocese and protocol number: Date of Decree: Any Restrictions: (copy of the Declaration of Nullity must be submitted with the pre-nuptial form) PREVIOUS MARRIAGE: (Decree of ecclesiastical nullity must be included with the Pre-Nuptial Form) Bride/Groom previously married: Yes No (Circle one) 1. How many times have you been married? 2. To whom:\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Religion of Person: Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_Place:\_\_\_\_\_ 4. 5. If former spouse is deceased:

Date of Death: Place: 6. Certificate Number: (copy of death certificate must be filed with the pre-nuptial form) If a former marriage was dissolved or declared null by the Church, give: 7. Diocese and protocol number: Date of Decree: Any Restrictions:

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE: (Decree of ecclesiastical nullity must be included with the Pre-Nuptial Form)

Bride/Groom previously married: Yes No (Circle one)

(copy of the Declaration of Nullity must be submitted with the pre-nuptial form)

The Groom & Bride must be interviewed separately by the Priest or Deacon who is required to pose and write the answers to the following questions. This is a confidential Church document and must be kept in a secure file.

**GROOM** The Priest or Deacon, having reminded the Groom of the sacred character and binding force of an oath, will ask the Groom the following questions: In good faith, do you affirm to tell the truth in answering these questions? 1. Full Name: Address: How long have you lived at this address: \_\_\_\_\_\_Contact Phone: In what Diocese do you live? \_\_\_\_\_Email: \_\_\_\_ To what parish do you belong? 2. Date and place of birth? Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's **Maiden** Name: Religion: Were you ever baptized? Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_ Church of Baptism: City, State, Country: (Note: If baptized Catholic, the Groom should present a copy of his updated Baptismal Certificate. If baptized in another Christian church, a copy of the Baptismal Certificate should be secured if possible. If the person is non-baptized and marrying a Catholic, a Dispensation for Disparity of Cult is needed.) What religion do you presently practice? How would you describe the practice of your religion? \_\_\_\_\_ Ouestions 4 and 5 are to be asked of Catholic only 4. First Holy Communion: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_Church/Place: \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Confirmation: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_Church/Place: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Was anyone among your parents or grandparents a member of, or baptized in, an Eastern Catholic Church? Are you civilly married to your intended spouse? \_\_\_\_\_\_How long? \_\_\_\_ 8. Have you ever been married or attempted marriage, in a religious or civil ceremony to another person? If so, how many times? *If any prior union(s) the following questions also need to be asked:* 9. Have you ever fathered a child/children from any previous relationship? How many? If so, are you fulfilling your moral and legal obligations to the child/children? Is your intended spouse aware of these obligations? 10. Has your intended spouse ever been married or attempted marriage, in a religious or civil ceremony to another person? If so, how many times?

(If the Bride has had any former union(s), she is to be asked fuller details during her interview.)

| 11. | (If the answer "Yes" is given to questions 11 through 13, please obtain details and contact the Chancery.) Are you and your intended spouse related by blood (as first cousins or closer) or by a legal relationship (in laws) or by legal adoption?                                                                                                  |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | If so, please describe the relationship:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12. | Do you or your intended spouse have any physical, psychological, or addiction problem which might seriously affect your marriage. Yes or No. If yes, please explain:                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13. | Are you or your intended spouse bound by any canonical impediment to marriage? (e.g., age, sacred orders sacred bonds, vows, religious profession, crime, public propriety, impotence). Circle if applicable. Please explain:                                                                                                                         |
| 14. | Is any person or circumstance (e.g. parental pressure, pregnancy, etc.) influencing you to enter this marriage or forcing you to do so against your will?                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 15. | Is any person or circumstance influencing the bride to enter this marriage or forcing her to marry against her will?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 16. | Are you attaching any conditions, restrictions, or reservations of any kind to your consent to this marriage?If "yes" to either, please explain:                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 17. | How long have you known your intended spouse?How long have you been engaged?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|     | Is there any major fact about you, either in the present or the past, which you have not made known to your proposed spouse and which might affect her willingness to marry you? If so, what is that fact?                                                                                                                                            |
| 19. | Has any immediate family or friend raised any objections to this marriage?If so, please describe the nature of those objections:                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 21. | (If the answer "No" is given to questions 20-22, please obtain details and contact the Chancery.)  Do you intend to enter a permanent marriage that can be dissolved only by death?  Do you intend to be faithful to your wife always?  Do you understand that one of the purposes of marriage is the begetting and rearing of children, God willing? |
| 23. | <ul><li>a. Do you intend to accept and fulfill this aspect of marriage?</li><li>b. Does your intended spouse accept and intend to fulfill this aspect of marriage?</li><li>Who will be the witness for the marriage?</li></ul>                                                                                                                        |
|     | Date:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|     | SEAL         Place:           Groom:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|     | Catholic Clergy or Pastoral Minister:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

A pastoral minister can sign when a clergy is unavailable and has received the due delegation from the pastor. A pastoral minister is understood to be the person who has been granted this role from the pastor in a stable manner. It should not be understood by anyone, even if they have other parish pastoral functions. If the pastoral minister signs the prenuptial investigation, evidence of the commission received must be included.

The Groom & Bride must be interviewed separately by the Priest or Deacon who <u>is required</u> to pose and write the answers to the following questions. This is a confidential Church document and must be kept in a secure file.

#### **BRIDE**

The Priest or Deacon, having reminded the bride of the sacred character and binding force of an oath, will ask the bride the following questions: In good faith, do you affirm to tell the truth in answering these questions? 1. Full Name: Address: How long have you lived at this address: \_\_\_\_\_Contact Phone:\_\_\_\_ In what Diocese do you live? Email: To what parish do you belong? 2. Date and place of birth? Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's **Maiden** Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Were you ever baptized? Religion: Date of Baptism: 3. Church of Baptism: City, State, Country: (Note: If baptized Catholic, the bride should present a copy of her updated Baptismal Certificate. If baptized in another Christian church, a copy of the Baptismal Certificate should be secured if possible. If the person is non-baptized and marrying a Catholic, a Dispensation for Disparity of Cult is needed.) What religion do you presently practice? How would you describe the practice of your religion? \_\_\_\_\_\_ Questions 4 and 5 are to be asked of Catholic only 4. First Holy Communion: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_Church/Place: \_\_\_\_ 5. Confirmation: Yes No Church/Place: 6. Was anyone among your parents or grandparents a member of, or baptized in, an Eastern Catholic Church? 7. Are you civilly married to your intended spouse? \_\_\_\_\_ How long? 8. Have you ever been married or attempted marriage, in a religious or civil ceremony to another person? If so, how many times? *If any prior union(s) the following questions also need to be asked:* 9. Have you ever mothered a child/children from any previous relationship? \_\_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, are you fulfilling your moral and legal obligations to the child/children? Is your intended spouse aware of these obligations? 10. Has your intended spouse ever been married or attempted marriage, in a religious or civil ceremony to another person? If so, how many times? (*If the Groom has had any former union(s), he is to be asked fuller details during his interview.*)

| 11. | (If the answer "Yes" is given to questions 11 through 13, please obtain details and contact the Chancery.) Are you and your intended spouse related by blood (as first cousins or closer) or by a legal relationship (in laws) or by legal adoption? |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | If so, please describe the relationship:                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 12. | Do you or your intended spouse have any physical, psychological, or addiction problem which might seriously affect your marriage. Yes or No. If yes, please explain:                                                                                 |
| 13. | Are you or your intended spouse bound by any canonical impediment to marriage? (e.g., age, sacred orders, sacred bonds, vows, religious profession, crime, public propriety, impotence). Circle if applicable. Please explain:                       |
| 14. | Is any person or circumstance (e.g. parental pressure, pregnancy, etc.) influencing you to enter this marriage or forcing you to do so against your will?                                                                                            |
| 15. | Is any person or circumstance influencing the groom to enter this marriage or forcing him to marry against his will?                                                                                                                                 |
| 16. | Are you attaching any conditions, restrictions, or reservations of any kind to your consent to this marriage?If "yes" to either, please explain:                                                                                                     |
| 17. | How long have you known your intended spouse?How long have you been engaged?                                                                                                                                                                         |
|     | Is there any major fact about you, either in the present or the past, which you have not made known to your proposed spouse and which might affect his willingness to marry you? If so, what is that fact?                                           |
| 19. | Has any immediate family or friend raised any objections to this marriage?If so, please describe the nature of those objections:                                                                                                                     |
|     | (If the answer "No" is given to questions 20-22, please obtain details and contact the Chancery.)  Do you intend to enter a permanent marriage that can be dissolved only by death?  Do you intend to be faithful to your husband always?            |
| 22. | Do you understand that one of the purposes of marriage is the begetting and rearing of children, God willing?                                                                                                                                        |
|     | a. Do you intend to accept and fulfill this aspect of marriage?                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 23  | b. Does your intended spouse accept and intend to fulfill this aspect of marriage? Who will be the witness for the marriage?                                                                                                                         |
|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|     | Date:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| SE  | Church:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|     | Bride:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|     | Catholic Clergy or Pastoral Minister:                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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