



**ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
Metropolitan Tribunal**

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**For Tribunal Only**

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Prot. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FROM CONSANGUINITY**

|                 |
|-----------------|
| <b>Groom</b>    |
| Name: _____     |
| Religion: _____ |

|                 |
|-----------------|
| <b>Bride</b>    |
| Name: _____     |
| Religion: _____ |

Most Reverend Archbishop:

I hereby request, on behalf of the Catholic party/parties named above, the **Dispensation from the Impediment of Consanguinity** in accordance with canon 1091 of the Code of Canon Law.

The following family tree diagrams the degree of relationship:

\_\_\_\_\_

One Common Ancestor

\_\_\_\_\_

Brother/Sister (parents  
of the parties)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

First Cousins (parties)

\_\_\_\_\_

I have discussed with the parties the possible complications and difficulties which a marriage within close degrees of kinship may pose for intra-family relationships. They have duly considered these, as well as the genetic concerns, which have been explained to them by a qualified physician. In submitting this petition, I am assured that there would be no scandal, should this dispensation be granted.

↑ Attached is the required letter signed by the parties' physician.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Pastor (Required if the Submitting Minister is not a priest.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**By virtue of the faculties granted in accordance with Canons 85, 87 and 1078, §1 of the Code of Canon Law, I hereby grant the requested Dispensation from the Impediment of Consanguinity.**

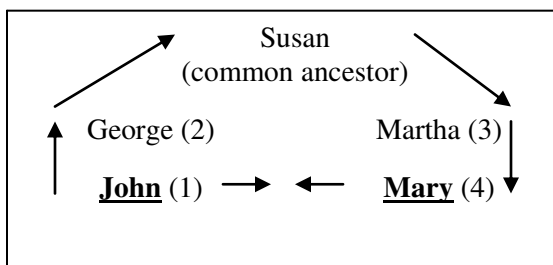
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Archbishop of Los Angeles/Vicar/Delegate

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

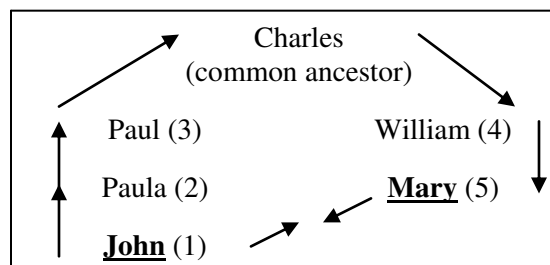
## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING THE PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FROM CONSANGUINITY

1. Consanguinity refers to *blood relationship*, either in the *direct line* (e.g., father-daughter, grandmother-grandson), or in the *collateral line* (e.g., brother-sister, uncle-niece, cousin-cousin). This differs from affinity, which refers to *legal relationships* brought about between families through marriage (i.e., one's in-laws).
2. Consanguinity and affinity are calculated in degrees, by counting the number of generations or persons in the lines to and from the common ancestor but *excluding* the common ancestor. Thus a brother and sister are related in the collateral line, second degree; an uncle and niece in the collateral line, third degree; first cousins in the collateral line, fourth degree.
3. Under the provisions of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, marriages between parties related by blood in any degree of the direct line are invalid. In the collateral line, they are invalid up to and including the fourth degree. Dispensations from consanguinity in the fourth degree (first cousins) may be granted under certain conditions. Because they are prohibited by civil law, dispensations for a marriage between aunt and nephew or uncle and niece (third degree) will not be granted.
4. The following cases illustrate consanguineous relationships. In each case, John wishes to marry Mary. The numbers in parenthesis illustrate the method of calculating the degree. In case #1, since the relationship is in the fourth degree of the collateral line (first cousins), a dispensation from the impediment is required. In case #2, the relationship is in the fifth degree, and so a dispensation is not necessary.

### Case #1 (Dispensation needed)



### Case #2 (Dispensation not needed)



5. In submitting a petition for a dispensation from the impediment of consanguinity, care must be taken to calculate the family relationship exactly. There may be medical or genetic reasons for discouraging a couple who are related from marrying. For this reason, the priest, deacon or parish minister should inquire whether there have been previous consanguineous marriages within the family. **In addition, petitions for this dispensation must be accompanied by a letter from a physician, stating that he/she has met with the couple and explained these considerations and possible consequences.**
6. Moreover, a marriage with close blood ties can complicate interpersonal relationships within the family and may even be disruptive. Therefore, the priest, deacon or parish minister, before submitting a petition for dispensation, must consider it a serious responsibility to discuss the possible negative social and intra-familial consequences of the proposed union and must satisfy himself/herself that the couple has given them due consideration.
7. Finally, the question of possible scandal where the union is allowed to take place must be addressed. The minister should become familiar with the particular circumstances of the families involved, and must be satisfied that the dispensation would not be likely to lead to scandal either within the families or the wider community.