

APPENDIX C:

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DOCUMENTS

COMMONLY USED DOCUMENTS:

1. PRENUPTIAL INQUIRY

Request From: Office of Marriage & Family Life

Filed With: Parish Marriage Records

Description:

The completion of the Prenuptial inquiry is required to establish freedom to marry and identify any impediments to the proposed marriage (canons 1066-1067), as well as to assure the Church that the bride and groom freely wish to marry one another at this time. It also explores the engaged couple's understanding of the Catholic teaching on marriage. The Bride & Groom must be interviewed separately by the priest or deacon. The priest or deacon is required to pose and write the answers to the following questions. This is a confidential Church document and should be kept in a second file with other such documents.

Available from the Office of Marriage & Family Life:
(213) 637-7228

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 secured 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:

Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth and nothing but the truth in answering the questions that shall be asked, so help you God? _____


- Full Legal Name: _____
Present Address: _____
How long have you lived at this address: _____ Contact Phone: _____
Occupation: _____ Email: _____
- Date and place of your 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 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 Worship is needed.)
- What religion do you presently practice? _____

Questions 5, 6, 7 are to be asked of Catholic only

- First Holy Communion: Yes _____ No _____ Church/Place: _____
- Confirmation: Yes _____ No _____ Church/Place: _____
- To what parish do you presently belong? _____
How would you describe the practice of your religion? _____

- What are the names and addresses of two persons (preferably parents or relatives) who could testify to your freedom to marry: _____

- Are you civilly married to your intended spouse? _____ How long? _____
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:
Name(s) of former spouse(s): _____
If ended by death, has a death certificate(s) been submitted? _____
If ended by divorce, has the Catholic Church issued a "Declaration of Nullity" or ecclesiastical dissolution for the union(s)? _____ *(If yes, the ecclesiastical decree(s) must be presented.)*

**PRENUPTIAL INQUIRY FORM
AND
NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION**
**ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE OFFICE
(213) 637-7228**

Groom: _____ Bride: _____

Date/time of the nuptial celebration: _____ at _____

Location: _____

☐ Celebration of Matrimony within Mass ☐ Celebration of Matrimony without Mass
☐ Celebration of Matrimony between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian

Presider of the Liturgy: _____

Date of Rehearsal: _____ at _____

Best Man: _____

Maid/Matron of Honor: _____

Entered in Marriage Register: Volume _____ Page _____

Church and date of Groom's Baptism: _____

Notification of Marriage: Date _____ Sent _____ or entered in Baptismal Register: Volume _____ Page _____

Church and date of Bride's Baptism: _____

Notification of Marriage: Date _____ Sent _____ or entered in Baptismal Register: Volume _____ Page _____

Required notification sent to appropriate state agency on: _____/_____/_____

I hereby delegate Reverend Deacon _____ to witness, within the limits of this parish, at the marriage of the parties named above.

Name of Pastor or Archbishop's Delegate: _____
Please Print

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Updated 11/2018

- Have you ever fathered a child/children in 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? _____
- 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.)
(If the answer "Yes" is given to questions 12 through 15, please obtain details and consult Canonical Services.)
- Are you and your intended spouse related by blood (as first cousins or closer) or by a legal relationship (in-laws)? _____
If so, please describe the relationship: _____
- Do you or your intended spouse suffer from any of the following:
a) a serious physical disease or other health problem that could create difficulties in your marriage? _____
b) a significant psychological impairment? _____
c) alcohol or other substance abuse? _____
If yes, please give details: _____
- 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? _____ Is any person or circumstance influencing the Bride to enter this marriage or forcing her to marry against her will? _____
- Are you attaching any conditions, restrictions, or reservations of any kind to your consent to this marriage? _____
Have you entered any type of prenuptial agreement? _____
If "yes" to either, please explain: _____
(If the answer "No" is given to questions 16 through 18, please obtain details and consult Canonical Services.)
- 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? _____
Do you intend to accept and fulfill this aspect of marriage? _____
Does your intended Bride accept and intend to fulfill this aspect of marriage? _____
- 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? _____
- Has any close family member raised any objections to this marriage? _____
If so, please describe the nature of those objections: _____

Signature of Groom: _____ Date: _____

Church: _____ Place: _____

Signature of Priest/Deacon: _____ *(Please Attach Parish Seal)*

2. PRENUPTIAL WITNESS AFFIDAVIT (LETTERS OF FREEDOM)

Request From: Office of Marriage & Family Life

Filed With: Parish Marriage Records


Description:

Prenuptial Witness Affidavit is used to: (1) verify freedom to marry; (2) investigate the attitude or both parents when a party is under 21 years of age; (3) investigate stability of the proposed marriage when either party is under 18 years of age; and (4) assist in proving baptism, when certificate is unavailable. **(Parental testimony is always preferred and should only be omitted for grave reasons.)**

Form Available Online (English & Spanish):

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/English-PNWA-Pre-Nuptal-Witness-Affidavit-3-22-21.pdf>

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FINAL-DECLARACIO%CC%81N-PRE-MATRIMONIAL-DE-TESTIGOS-REVISADO-3-22-21.pdf>



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE OFFICE
(213) 637-7228

**PRE-NUPTIAL WITNESS AFFIDAVIT
For Marriage of**

Groom (print full name) and _____
Bride (print full name)

(Parish of Marriage and Address)

Affidavit of Witness for _____
Bride or Groom

In keeping with Church law and policies for marriage, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles requires two witnesses for each candidate in the following circumstances:

1. To establish freedom to marry, or
2. To assist in proving baptism, when certificate is unavailable, or
3. To investigate individuals seeking to marry who are under eighteen years of age, as the previous permission of the Archbishop is required.

Each witness must be interviewed individually using this form. The testimony of parents is always preferred and should be neglected for grave reasons only.

TO ESTABLISH FREEDOM TO MARRY

1. Do you solemnly swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth in answering the following questions? _____
2. Name: _____
Address: _____
3. What is your relationship to the person whose name appears above? _____
4. How long have you known this person? _____ How well? _____
5. Has the person mentioned above ever gone through any type of marriage ceremony? _____
If so, how many times? _____ With whom? _____
Does this marriage still exist? _____
6. Is the person mentioned above related to the other individual to this intended marriage? _____
If so, in what way? _____
7. To your knowledge, is the person mentioned above entering this marriage freely? _____
To your knowledge, does the person mentioned above intend to enter a life-long union? _____
To your knowledge, does the person mentioned above intend to be faithful for life to the partner in this marriage? _____ If "no" to any part of question 7, explain _____
8. Do you know of any reason why this person should not get married? If yes, "explain" _____

TO ESTABLISH BAPTISM OR NON-BAPTISM:

9. Was the person mentioned above ever baptized? _____ In what religion? _____
When? _____ In what church and address? _____
- By whom? _____
- Who were the sponsors? _____
- Were you present? _____ If not, how do you know of the Baptism? _____
- What religion does this person practice at present? _____
10. If the person above was not baptized, how do you know of the non-baptism? _____

IF INDIVIDUAL IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE:

11. How long have these individuals known one another? _____
12. How long have they been dating with a view to marriage? _____
13. When did you become aware of their intention to marry? _____
14. Have you tried to discourage them from entering this marriage? _____ Why? _____
15. Is there any reason why this person feels obligated to marry at this time? _____
What is the reason? _____

PARISH SEAL

Signature – Witness

Signature – Interviewing Priest/Deacon

Date Place

Revised 1-2021


3. BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE
(WITH SACRAMENTAL NOTATIONS)

Request From: **Obtained by Engaged Couple From Parish of Baptism**

Filed With: **Parish Marriage Records**

Description:

A Catholic Baptismal Certificate is needed to verify the fact of baptism and to facilitate the post-martial registration and notifications required by canon law (Canon 1121-1122). In reviewing the baptismal certificate, look carefully to determine whether the person was baptized in the "Roman/Latin Church. "If the certificate reveals that the person was baptized in a different Catholic ritual tradition (e.g. Byzantine Catholic, Maronite, etc.) it is possible the Latin Catholic priest/deacon may not have jurisdiction to validly witness the vows without special authorization. A recent certificate with complete marginal notations (i.e., one issued in the last six months) is required. **The reason the certificate must be current is that the marginal notations may reveal an impediment due to a prior valid bond, sacred orders or religious profession (Canons 1085, 1087, and 1088).**

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Certificate of Baptism</h1> <div style="text-align: center;"> Church of _____</div>	
<p>» This is to Certify «</p>	
That _____	
Child of _____	
and _____	
born in _____	
on the _____ day of _____	
was Baptized	
on the _____ day of _____	
According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church	
by the Rev. _____	
the Sponsors being _____	
as appears from the Baptismal Register of this Church.	
Dated _____	
Pastor _____	

NO. 314 F. J. REMY CO. INC. MINN. & ILL. & N.Y.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Notations</h2>	
FIRST COMMUNION	{ Date _____ Church _____ Place _____
CONFIRMATION	{ Date _____ Church _____ Place _____
MARRIAGE(S)	{ To _____ Date _____ Church _____ Place _____
DIACONATE	{ Date _____ Church _____ Place _____
RELIGIOUS PROFESSION	{ Date _____ Church _____ Place _____

4. CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE

Request From: Obtained by Engaged Couple from Parish of Confirmation

Filed With: Parish Marriage Records

Description:

If either of the parties is not confirmed and the Confirmation can be completed without serious inconvenience it is preferred, but not required. (See canon 1065) The parish issuing the current Baptismal Certificate should include the notations for First Eucharis and Confirmation. If this is done there is no need to secure separate copy of the Certificate of Confirmation.

(Available from the Parish of Confirmation)

ADDITIONAL PERMISSIONS AND DISPENSATIONS

5. PERMISSION FOR A MIXED MARRIAGE

Request From: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Granted By: Priest

Filed With: Parish Marriage Records

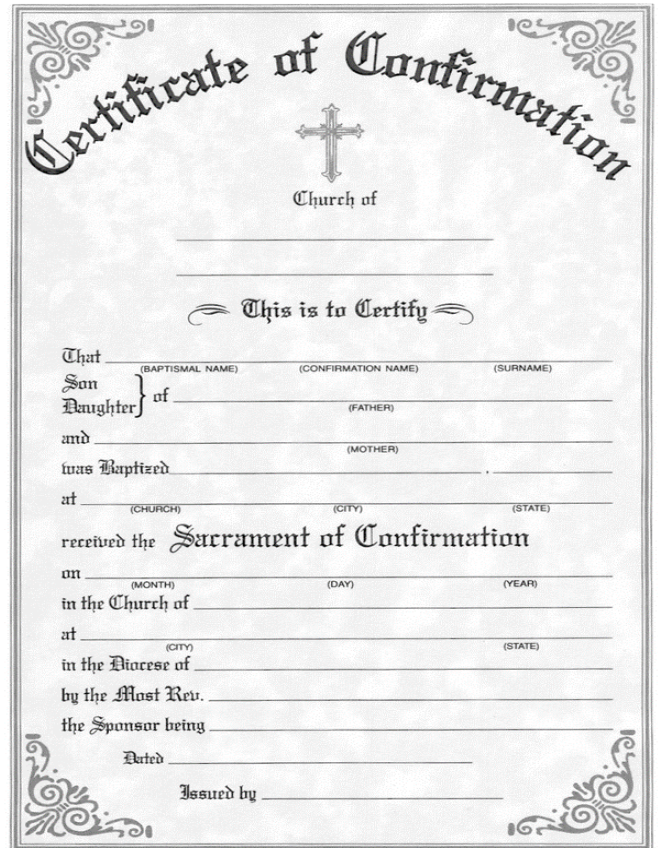
Description:

Permission for a Mixed Marriage is used when permission is needed for a Baptized Catholic to marry a person baptized in another Christian faith. The form contains a statement by the Catholic party that he/she understands the expectations of the Church regarding continued practice of the faith and handing on the faith to the children of the marriage. The form also contains a statement by the other party that he/she is aware of the Catholic's obligations.

Form Available On-line:

(English) <https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Permission-for-Mixed-Marriage-English.pdf>

(Spanish) <https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Permiso-de-Matrimonio-Mixto-Espan%CC%83ol.pdf>

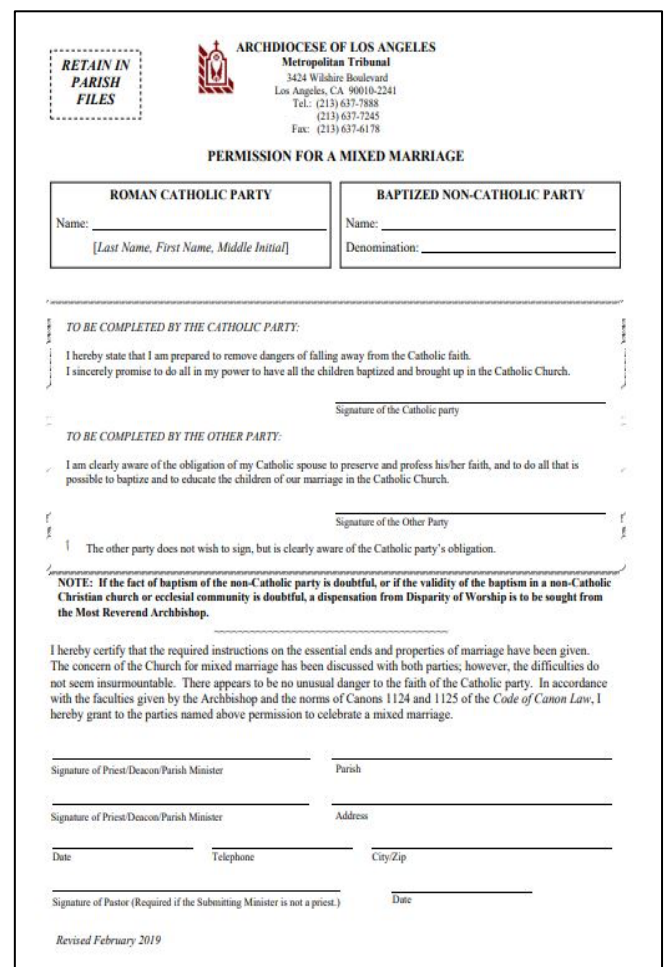


Certificate of Confirmation

Church of _____

This is to Certify

That _____
(BAPTISMAL NAME) (CONFIRMATION NAME) (SURNAME)
Son _____
Daughter _____ of _____
(FATHER)
and _____
(MOTHER)
was Baptized _____
at _____
(CHURCH) (CITY) (STATE)
received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**
on _____
(MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR)
in the Church of _____
at _____
(CITY) (STATE)
in the Diocese of _____
by the Most Rev. _____
the Sponsor being _____
Dated _____
Issued by _____



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES
Metropolitan Tribunal
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241
Tel.: (213) 637-7888
(213) 637-7245
Fax: (213) 637-6178

RETAIN IN PARISH FILES

PERMISSION FOR A MIXED MARRIAGE

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARTY	BAPTIZED NON-CATHOLIC PARTY
Name: _____ [Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial]	Name: _____ Denomination: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE 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 _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE OTHER 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 the Other Party _____
The other party does not wish to sign, but is clearly aware of the Catholic party's obligation.

NOTE: If the fact of baptism of the non-Catholic party is doubtful, or if the validity of the baptism in a non-Catholic Christian church or ecclesial community is doubtful, a dispensation from Disparity of Worship is to be sought from the Most Reverend Archbishop.

I hereby certify that the required instructions on the essential ends and properties of marriage have been given. The concern of the Church for mixed marriage has been discussed with both parties; however, the difficulties do not seem insurmountable. There appears to be no unusual danger to the faith of the Catholic party. In accordance with the faculties given by the Archbishop and the norms of Canons 1124 and 1125 of the Code of Canon Law, I hereby grant to the parties named above permission to celebrate a mixed marriage.

Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister _____ Parish _____
Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister _____ Address _____
Date _____ Telephone _____ City/Zip _____
Signature of Pastor (Required if the Submitting Minister is not a priest.) _____ Date _____

Revised February 2019

6. PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FROM DISPARITY OF WORSHIP

Request From: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Return To: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Filed With: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services Parish Marriage Records

Description:


A **Petition for Dispensation from Disparity of Worship** is used to request authorization for a Catholic to marry a non-baptized person. It is also used when a Catholic marries a doubtfully baptized person, either because the fact of the baptism is doubtful or the validity of the baptism is in doubt.


The form contains a statement by the Catholic party that he/she understands the expectations of the Church regarding continued practice of the faith and handing on the faith to the children of the marriage. The form also contains a statement by the other party that he/she is aware of the Catholic's obligations.

Form Available Online (English & Spanish):

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Disparity-of-Worship-Dispens-English.pdf>

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Disparity-of-Worship-Dispens-Spanish.pdf>

 ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES Metropolitan Tribunal 3424 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241 Tel.: (213) 637-7888 (213) 637-7245 Fax: (213) 637-6178	For Tribunal Only Case Name: _____ Prot. No.: _____
PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FROM DISPARITY OF WORSHIP	
Most Reverend Archbishop:	
I, _____, baptized in (or received into) the Catholic Church, wish to marry _____, who is/was _____	
I _____ I never baptized I doubtfully baptized I baptized in the _____ Church, but the validity of the baptism is doubtful I Muslim	
I ask you to grant a dispensation from the impediment of Disparity of Worship (can. 1086).	
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 _____	
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 Other Party _____	
I The other party does not wish to sign, but is clearly aware of the Catholic party's obligation.	
The justifying cause for this Dispensation is the spiritual good of the parties, who seem sincere and otherwise well disposed. The required instructions on the essential ends and properties of marriage have been given. The concern of the Church for marriages between Catholic and non-baptized persons has been discussed with both parties, yet the difficulties do not seem insurmountable. There appears to be no unusual danger to the faith of the Catholic party.	
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 _____	
If Dispensation is obtained BEFORE the petition is sent to the Tribunal:	
Granted by: _____ Date: _____	
[THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR THE TRIBUNAL SERVICES] I hereby grant the requested Dispensation from Disparity of Worship, in accordance with can. 1086, §2.	
Archbishop of Los Angeles/Vicar/Delegate _____ Date _____	
Revised February 2019	

 ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES Metropolitan Tribunal 3424 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241 Tel.: (213) 637-7888 (213) 637-7245 Fax: (213) 637-6178	Para uso del Tribunal solamente Causa: _____ No. de Prot.: _____
SOLICITUD DE DISPENSA DE DISPARIDAD DE CULTO	
Excelentísimo Sr. Arzobispo:	
Yo, _____, bautizado(a) en la Iglesia Católica, deseo contraer matrimonio con _____, quien: _____	
I nunca ha sido bautizado(a) I fue bautizado(a) dudosamente I fue bautizado(a) en la religión o secta de _____, pero su validez es dudosa. I Musulmán	
Solicito a Usted concederme la Dispensa del Impedimento de Disparidad de Culto. (can. 1086)	
Por este medio declaro que estoy dispuesto(a) a evitar todo peligro que me lleve a perder la fe Católica. Prometo sinceramente poner todo el empeño posible para que nuestros hijos sean bautizados y educados en el seno de la Iglesia Católica.	
Firma de la Persona Católica _____	
He sido claramente advertido(a) de la obligación que tiene mi cónyuge Católico(a) de profesar y preservar su fe y hacer todo lo posible por bautizar y educar a nuestros hijos en la Iglesia Católica.	
Firma de la Persona no Católica _____	
La persona no Católica no desea firmar, pero conoce claramente las obligaciones de su cónyuge.	
La causa que justifica esta Dispensa es el bien espiritual de las partes, quienes se han mostrado sinceros y bien dispuestos. Ellos han sido instruidos sobre los fines y las propiedades esenciales del matrimonio. Se discutió con ambas partes la preocupación de la Iglesia por los matrimonios entre un Católico(a) y una persona no-bautizada, y estas dificultades no parecen insuperables. Así mismo, la fe de la parte Católica no está en peligro inminente.	
Firma del Sacerdote/ Dácono/ Ministro Parroquial _____ Parroquia _____	
Nombre en LETRA IMPRINTA del Sacerdote/ Dácono/ Ministro _____ Dirección _____	
Fecha _____ Teléfono _____ Ciudad/ Código _____	
Firma del Párroco (necesaria si el Ministro no es sacerdote) _____ Fecha _____	
Si la Dispensa es otorgada ANTES de enviar la solicitud al Tribunal:	
Concedida por: _____ Fecha: _____	
[ESPACIO RESERVADO PARA EL TRIBUNAL]	
Por la presente se concede la Dispensa de Disparidad de Culto de acuerdo al canon 1086, §2.	
Arzobispo de Los Angeles/ Vicario/ Delegado _____ Fecha _____	
Revisado Febrero 2019	

7. PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FROM CANONICAL FORM

Request From: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Filed With: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Description:


A **Petition for Dispensation from Canonical Form** is used when a Catholic wishes to marry someone of another religious tradition in their place of worship and before the authorized minister of that religion (e.g., Catholic to Jew).

Please follow the instructions contained with granted dispensation for recording the marriage. A priest or deacon may be present at the ceremony within the Ecumenical Guidelines of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Forms Available Online (English & Spanish):

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Canonical-Form-Dispens-English-Form.pdf>

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Dispensa-de-Forma-Cano%CC%81nica-Espan%CC%83ol.pdf>

		ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES		For Tribunal Only	
Metropolitan Tribunal		3424 Wilshire Boulevard		Case Name: _____	
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241		Tel.: (213) 637-7888		Prot. No.: _____	
Tel.: (213) 637-7245					
Fax: (213) 637-6178					

PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FROM CANONICAL FORM	
Catholic Party	Other Party
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
Telephone: () _____	Telephone: () _____
Parish of Baptism: _____	Religion: _____
Address: _____	Institution: _____
Telephone: () _____	Address: _____
	Rite: _____

WEDDING INFORMATION	
Date of Wedding: _____	Place of Wedding: _____
Address: _____	
Diocese: _____	Name & Denomination of Officiant: _____
Name of any Catholic Priest to attend: _____	
Telephone (of Catholic Priest to attend): () _____	

Most Reverend Archbishop:
The Catholic party named above hereby petitions for a Dispensation from the Canonical Form of Marriage (can. 1127, §2). This dispensation is requested for the following serious reason(s):
1 To achieve family harmony and avoid alienation 1 Close family connection with the particular Church 1 Special friendship with the officiant 1 To obtain parental agreement to the marriage 1 Other: _____

Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister	Parish
Print Name of Pastor/Parochial Vicar	Address
Date	Telephone
City/Zip	Date

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

In accordance with Canon 1127, §2, I hereby grant the requested Dispensation from Canonical Form, <i>servatis de iure servandis</i> .	
By: _____ Archbishop of Los Angeles/Vicar/Delegate	Date: _____

Revised February 2019

INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES FOR PROCESSING DISPENSATIONS FROM CANONICAL FORM	
<i>Archdiocesan policy regarding dispensation from canonical form is based on (a) the prescriptions of Canon 1127, §2, (b) complementary legislation by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, (c) the Archdiocesan Guidelines for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, nn. 95-96, published in May 1988, and (d) the Archdiocesan Guidelines of May 8, 1998. Please refer to these sources and, in case of doubt, consult with the Tribunal.</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">The diocesan bishop or other local ordinary is not to dispense from canonical form for a marriage between two Catholics, except in danger of death (can. 1079, §1).It is the local ordinary of the Catholic party who has the authority to dispense from the canonical form. If the Catholic party resides outside of the Archdiocese (even if the wedding is to take place within the Archdiocese), it is the bishop of the diocese in which the Catholic party resides who must be petitioned for the dispensation.If the location of the proposed wedding is outside of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the ordinary of that place must be consulted (can. 1127, §2) and the regulations of that diocese respected. The Tribunal will make the necessary consultation.Even when "serious difficulties" (can. 1127, §2) pose an obstacle to the observance of canonical form and warrant the granting of a dispensation from form, the requirements of canon 1125 for mixed marriages or disparity of worship marriages still apply. Consequently, a petition for a dispensation from form should be accompanied by either:<ol style="list-style-type: none">the properly signed petition for a dispensation from disparity of worship, orthe properly signed grant of permission for mixed marriage."For Latin Catholics to be married in a parish church other than the proper parish of the Catholic party, permission is required from (1) the pastor of that parish where the ceremony is desired, and (2) the pastor of the parish in which the Catholic party is domiciled (canon 1115)." [Policies Concerning the Place of Weddings, pg. 3-F]After the dispensation is granted, all documents related to the marriage should be forwarded to the parish of the Catholic party.If the Catholic priest or deacon attends and participates in the wedding when a dispensation from the canonical form has been granted, he may not in any way ask for the consent of the parties or receive their vows, either individually or jointly with the other minister. He likewise may not perform a combined inter-ritual service with the officiating minister or a separate liturgical service (can. 1127, §3). The participation of a priest or deacon in a wedding held with a dispensation from canonical form is governed by the Archdiocesan Guidelines for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, number 96.It is the responsibility of the priest, deacon or other pastoral minister who petitions for the dispensation from canonical form to see that the marriage is recorded in the parish of the Catholic party and in the parish of his/her baptism. A "Marriage Notification Form" will be returned with the rescript granting the dispensation.<ol style="list-style-type: none">If another priest or deacon is to attend the wedding, the submitting priest, deacon or pastoral minister is to send the "Marriage Notification Form" to him for completion and transmittal to the parish of the Catholic party, the name and address of which is to be supplied on the form.If no priest or deacon is to attend the wedding, the submitting priest, deacon or pastoral minister is to send the "Marriage Notification Form" to the minister or rabbi who officiates, requesting that he or she forward it to the parish of the Catholic party, supplying the name and address of the place of marriage in the appropriate place on the form.Upon receiving the "Marriage Notification Form" and recording the marriage, the pastor of the Catholic party is asked to notify the parish of baptism regarding the marriage (with notice of dispensations/permissions granted). He is to return a copy of the "Marriage Notification Form" to the Tribunal.	

Revised February 2019

8. REQUEST FOR TESTIMONIAL LETTERS (NIHIL OBSTAT)

TRANSMISSION OF DOCUMENTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY FORMS:

Request From: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Return To: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Filed With: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Description:

Request for Testimonial Letters is used when the priest or deacon is mailing Premarital Documents to another diocese where the wedding will take place. The documents are reviewed and sealed by the Vicar for Canonical Services, forwarded to the Chancery of other Diocese, and from there delivered to the parish where the marriage will take place. The procedure assures the authenticity of the documents from Diocese to Diocese and their acceptance at the parish. (Refer to the Testimonial Letters-Explanation)

If you have any questions specifically concerning Canonical Concerns/Dispensations, please contact Canonical Services at (213) 637-7888.

Form Available Online (English & Spanish):

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Testimonial-Letters-or-Nihil-Obstat-English.pdf>

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Cartas-Testimoniales-o-Nihil-Obstat-Espanol.pdf>

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES Metropolitan Tribunal 3424 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241 Tel.: (213) 637-7888 (213) 637-7245 Fax: (213) 637-6178		TIME DEADLINE & SPECIAL HANDLING FEES for TESTIMONIAL LETTERS <i>For normal processing, all documents and \$40 fee must be received by this Office no later than four (4) weeks prior to the wedding. Otherwise an extra fee of \$30 must accompany the paperwork for expedited handling.</i>	
TESTIMONIAL LETTERS OR NIHIL OBSTAT			
Groom		Bride	
Name: _____		Name: _____	
Address: _____		Address: _____	
Telephone: _____		Telephone: _____	
Religion: _____		Religion: _____	
Parish: _____		Parish: _____	
Place of Marriage:		Priest/Deacon Celebrant:	
Church: _____		Name: _____	
City: _____		Phone: _____	
Diocese: _____		Date of Marriage: _____	
Documents Submitted			
1. Prenuptial Investigation: _____		Groom _____ Bride _____	
2. Testimony of Witnesses Concerning Freedom: _____		Groom _____ Bride _____	
3. Certificate/Proof of Baptism: _____		Groom _____ Bride _____	
4. Granted Dispensation/Permissions: _____		Groom _____ Bride _____	
5. Other Documents: _____		Groom _____ Bride _____	
6. For Testimonial Letters only, fee (required in advance of processing): \$40 for normal handling, \$70 for expedited handling. Please make check payable to <i>Archdiocese of Los Angeles</i> : \$ _____			
Concerning Banns: _____ Announced, with no objection _____ To be announced _____ Dispensed _____			
I know of nothing that stands in the way of the valid and licit celebration of the proposed marriage (c. 1066). Permission, insofar as it is required, is hereby given for this marriage to take place outside of the parish (c. 1115). Therefore, I respectfully request the issuance of the Testimonial Letters / Nihil Obstat (c. 1070) for the marriage.			
Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister _____		Parish _____ City _____ Telephone _____	
As delegate of the Archbishop of Los Angeles in these matters, I hereby grant the Testimonial Letters .			
By: _____		Date: _____	
Nihil Obstat: We have no objection to the above-mentioned marriage taking place in this (Arch)diocese.			
By: _____		Date: _____	
Revised February 2019			

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES		Office of the Vicar for Canonical Services Office: (213) 637-7888 Fax: (213) 637-6201		3424 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles California 90010-2241	
Dear Parish Marriage Minister:					
It frequently happens that marriages of our parishioners are celebrated in other dioceses in the United States or in other countries.					
When one of the parties to a marriage resides in this Archdiocese, his/her parish priest has the responsibility to assist in establishing freedom to marry, even when the wedding is to take place in another diocese. Canon 1066 states: "Before a marriage is celebrated, it must be evident that nothing stands in the way of its valid and licit celebration." Canon 1070 adds: "If someone other than the pastor who is to assist at the marriage has conducted the investigations, the person is to notify the pastor about the results as soon as possible through an authentic document."					
This responsibility is usually fulfilled by facilitating the necessary course of pre-marriage instructions and by forwarding to the parish where the wedding is to take place all sacramental documents, letters of freedom, prenuptial investigation form, and any other pertinent documents establishing the readiness and freedom of the party to marry. When the place of the wedding is another parish located within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, those materials can be sent directly by you to the parish. However, when the parish of the wedding is located in another diocese , these documents must be accompanied by TESTIMONIAL LETTERS from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and a NIHIL OBSTAT from the diocese of the place of the wedding. Problems can be encountered by our people if they arrive for the wedding in another place and find these TESTIMONIAL LETTERS and NIHIL OBSTAT have not been issued.					
Priests, deacons and other parish ministers who are approached by a parishioner for help in preparing for a marriage in another diocese are asked to use the form: " Testimonial Letters or Nihil Obstat ." The form is available in English and Spanish. If the marriage is to take place in a country where Spanish is the primary language, please use the Spanish version. For dioceses in the United States or other countries, please use the English version. Once completed, the form, along with the documents and fee, is to be sent to the Office of the Vicar for Canonical Services in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We will issue the TESTIMONIAL LETTERS and forward the materials to the diocese where the wedding is scheduled to take place. The receiving diocese will then issue the NIHIL OBSTAT and forward them to the parish of the wedding.					
Occasionally, when there is doubt about international mails, the parties may want to hand carry a copy of the documents with them. If this is the case, please inform our office when you send in the request. We will issue testimonial letters, forward the originals, but then return to you an authenticated copy for the parties to deliver to the parish of the wedding.					
We hope these forms will facilitate your service of parishioners in these matters. If you have any questions, please feel free to consult with the Office of the Vicar for Canonical Services.					
Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels San Fernando San Gabriel San Pedro Santa Barbara					

9. PETITION FOR A LACK OF FORM CASE

TRANSMISSION OF DOCUMENTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY FORMS

Request From: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Return To: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Filed With: Office of Vicar for Canonical Services

Description:

Petition for a Lack of Form is used for determining if a prior bond exists or if a marriage lacked canonical form, a documentary process is used to clarify the marital situation. The documents are reviewed and sealed by the Vicar for Canonical Services, forwarded to the Chancery of other Diocese, and from there delivered to the parish where the marriage will take place. The procedure assures the authenticity of the documents from Diocese to Diocese and their acceptance at the parish.

If you have any questions specifically concerning Canonical Concerns/Dispensations, please contact Canonical Services at (213) 637-7888.

Form Available Online (English & Spanish):

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Lack-of-Form-Petition-12-10-2019.pdf>

<https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Falta-de-Forma-Cano%CC%81nica-Espan%CC%83ol.pdf>

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES	
Metropolitan Tribunal 3424 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90010-3241 Tel.: (213) 637-7888 (213) 637-7245 Fax: (213) 637-6178	
For the Tribunal Only	
Case: _____ Prot. No.: _____ Granted by: _____ Date: _____	
PETITION FOR A LACK OF FORM CASE	
PETITIONER	OTHER PARTY
Name: _____ (Include Name if applicable) Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Baptismal Information Church: _____ Address: _____ Rite: _____ Date: _____	Name: _____ (Include Name if applicable) Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Baptismal Information Church: _____ Address: _____ Rite: _____ Date: _____
MARRIAGE	DIVORCE
Date: _____ Place: _____ License or Prot. # _____	Date: _____ Place: _____ Decree or Prot. # _____
QUESTIONNAIRE	
1. Was the above marriage ever validated or ratified in the Roman Catholic Church? _____	
2. Did this marriage take place with a dispensation from canonical form? _____	
3. Did you ever abandon the Catholic Faith by a "formal" act? (See note #2.) _____	
4. Were any children born of the above marriage? _____	
If so, who is legally responsible for their support? _____	
Is this support being paid? (If not, please explain on a separate page.) _____	
I swear to the truth of all the information on this petition and ask that, in accordance with Canon 1108, §1 of the Code of Canon Law, this marriage be declared invalid due to the absence of canonical form. I further understand that absolutely no arrangements can be made and no date scheduled for a future Catholic marriage or validation (not even a tentative date) until I have received official notice of a declaration of invalidity of this marriage.	
Petitioner's Signature _____	Parish Name: _____
Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister _____	Parish Address: _____
PRINT Name of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister _____	Parish Phone Number & E-mail _____
Date: _____	
Signature of Pastor (Required if the Submitting Minister is not a priest.) _____	Date: _____ (Seal)
Revised February 2019	Fee Paid: _____ Date: _____

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES	
LACK OF FORM CASES	
GENERAL INFORMATION/CHECKLIST	
TO BE SUBMITTED:	
A. Petition form: One for each marriage in question and reviewed by the Pastor/Submitting Minister. Must be completely filled out with both the Submitting Minister's/Pastor's and Petitioner's signature.	
B. Certificate of Catholic Baptism of at least one party: An updated copy of the Catholic's baptismal certificate from the parish where the Catholic was baptized. Certificate must be dated within the last 6 months, with notations of any prior marriages.	
C. Certificate of Marriage: A photocopy of the certificate for the marriage in question.	
D. Final Decree of Civil Divorce or Civil Annulment: Can be obtained from the Hall of Records in the County/City where the divorce took place; photocopy is fine.	
E. Affidavit of Non-Validation: "Other Party": As with all marriage cases, reasonable efforts must be made to protect the rights of the other Party. In Lack of Form cases, the Submitting Minister is encouraged to obtain sworn testimony of the other Party using the "Affidavit of Non-Validation: Other Party" form provided by the Tribunal (in English and Spanish), prior to submitting the Petition. A sample letter to the "other-Party" in Word format is available in the Tribunal's website.	
1. If your attempt to contact the other Party is unsuccessful, send to the Tribunal a copy of the letter being sent to the other Party along with the required documents in A, B, C, D, F and G.	
2. If it is not possible to locate the other Party, then submit a letter of explanation to the Tribunal stating the reasons why, along with the required documents in A, B, C, D, F and G.	
F. Two Affidavits of Non-Validation: Witness: If testimony of the other party is unobtainable, the sworn testimony of two competent witnesses to the non-validation of the marriage must be obtained. In order to verify non-validation, these witnesses must have had ongoing contact or communication with the parties throughout the marriage. Please use only the form entitled "Affidavit of Non-Validation: Witness", also available in the Tribunal website (in English or Spanish).	
G. Fee: \$50.00 (Please make check payable to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles)	
IMPORTANT REMINDER:	
Canon 1071 §1, 3 "Except in case of necessity, no one is to assist at the marriage of a person who is bound by natural obligations toward another party or toward children arising from a prior union, without the permission of the local ordinary." It is the moral obligation of the Pastor/Submitting Minister to verify, that proper child support and/or alimony are being paid between the Petitioner and the other Party. This will aid the priest or deacon to form the moral certitude as to whether or not the Petitioner is capable of assuming the marital obligations and/or adequately prepared to enter into a new marriage in the church.	
SPECIAL NOTES:	
1. For marriages celebrated by a Latin Catholic with an <u>Orthodox Christian</u> on or after March 25, 1967 (for most Eastern Catholics the date is January 21, 1965), the canonical form of marriage is necessary only for licity. Such marriages, if entered with the assistance and solemn blessing of an Orthodox priest, are valid (see c. 1127, §1). Only if a minister of either Church did not officiate at the ceremony is a Lack of Form case possible.	
2. If the marriage in question took place on or after November 27, 1983 and before April 9, 2010, it is necessary to inquire if the Catholic party abandoned the faith by a <u>formal act</u> at any time prior to the marriage. Those who publicly renounce membership in the Catholic Church, who become members of another Christian or non-Christian denomination through some explicit act of enrollment, profession of faith, baptism, etc., or who make a formal profession of atheism <u>may</u> have left the faith by a formal act. If so, they were not bound by the required canonical form of marriage (c. 1117) during that time period. Please consult the Tribunal.	
3. Though not strictly required for the case by canon law, it would be pastorally advisable to learn <u>why</u> this attempted marriage was never validated. Such information could be useful to the pastoral minister in preparing a couple for a successful Catholic marriage.	
4. Please include in a cover letter with any <u>additional information</u> which you consider helpful in evaluating the case.	
Revised December 2019	

MARRIAGE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

<https://www.lavote.net/home/county-clerk/marriage-licenses-ceremonies/apply-for-a-marriage-license/apply>

The screenshot shows the official website of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. The header includes the county seal and navigation links for VOTING & ELECTIONS, RECORDS, COUNTY CLERK, NEWSROOM, PUBLICATIONS, JOBS, and CONTACT. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area is titled 'Apply' and features a notice about COVID-19: 'Due to the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) the Registrar-Recorder has closed its offices to the public. Marriage services are only available virtually. You must have a computer, laptop, tablet or phone that has voice and video capabilities as well as an email address.' It then outlines the process for a 'Virtual Marriage License Appointment or Virtual Marriage License and Civil Ceremony Appointment', starting with 'Step One: Complete the online application' and 'Record the confirmation number after completing the online application.' A 'Step Two' section mentions 'Book an appointment' and includes a 'Make an Appointment' button.

VENTURA COUNTY

<https://recorder.countyofventura.org/county-clerk/county-clerk/marriage-information/marriage-license/>

The screenshot displays the website of Mark A. Lunn, Ventura County Clerk-Recorder. The header features his name and title, along with the county seal and the motto 'PRESERVING HISTORY - PROTECTING DEMOCRACY'. Navigation tabs include County Clerk, County Recorder, and Elections. The main section is titled 'Marriage Licenses' and provides information on obtaining a California marriage license, including the location of the County Clerk's Office and the County Recorder's Office. It also lists the types of payment accepted and the forms required for the license.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

<http://www.sbcvvote.com/ClerkRecorder/marriagelicense.aspx>

The screenshot shows the website of the Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder Division, led by Joseph E. Holland. The header includes the county seal and navigation links for HOME, ABOUT US, REAL ESTATE RECORDS, VITAL RECORDS, MARRIAGES, FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES, and HISTORICAL ARCHIVES. The main content area is titled 'Apply for a Marriage License' and features a notice about COVID-19: 'Due to COVID-19, we are issuing marriage licenses by appointment ONLY through video conferencing on the web, during normal business hours Monday - Friday. Please contact Clerk-Recorder's Office at (805) 964-2263 if you have an emergency or require special accommodations.' It then outlines the process for a 'Reserve Your Appointment', including a non-refundable fee of \$23 and the requirement to provide a credit card or cash. A 'Three (3) Ways to pay the reservation fee' section lists the following options: 1. Online: Authorize a credit card. 2. Mail: a check, money order or credit card authorization form to PO Box 159, Santa Barbara CA 93102. 3. At office: check, money order, or credit card authorization form in drop box.