

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

PRENUPTIAL INQUIRY FORM AND NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE OFFICE (213) 637-7228. Includes fields for Groom, Bride, Date/time of the nuptial celebration, Location, and checkboxes for celebration types. Includes a signature line for the priest/deacon.

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? 1. Full Legal Name: Present Address: How long have you lived at this address: Contact Phone: Occupation: Email: 2. Date and place of your birth? Father's Name: Religion: Mother's Maiden Name: Religion: 3. 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.) 4. What religion do you presently practice? Questions 5, 6, 7 are to be asked of Catholic only 5. First Holy Communion: Yes No Church/Place: 6. Confirmation: Yes No Church/Place: 7. To what parish do you presently belong? How would you describe the practice of your religion? 8. What are the names and addresses of two persons (preferably parents or relatives) who could testify to your freedom to marry: 9. 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.)

10. 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? 11. 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.) 12. 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: 13. 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: 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? Is any person or circumstance influencing the Bride to enter this marriage or forcing her to marry against her will? 15. 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.) 16. Do you intend to enter a permanent marriage that can be dissolved only by death? 17. Do you intend to be faithful to your wife always? 18. 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? 19. How long have you known your intended spouse? How long have you been engaged? 20. 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? 21. 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)

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).**

Certificate of Baptism

Church of _____

↳ This is to Certify ↳

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. MINEOLA, N.Y.

Notations

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 } of _____
 Daughter } (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 _____

RETAIN IN PARISH FILES

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

PERMISSION FOR A MIXED MARRIAGE

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">ROMAN CATHOLIC PARTY</p> <p>Name: _____ <small>[Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial]</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">BAPTIZED NON-CATHOLIC PARTY</p> <p>Name: _____ Denomination: _____</p>
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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>

 <p>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</p>	<p><small>For Tribunal Only</small> Case Name: _____ Prot. No.: _____</p>
<p>PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FROM DISPARITY OF WORSHIP</p>	
<p>Most Reverend Archbishop: I, _____, baptized in (or received into) the Catholic Church, wish to marry _____, who is/was</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> never baptized <input type="checkbox"/> doubtfully baptized <input type="checkbox"/> baptized in the _____ Church, but the validity of the baptism is doubtful <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim </p> <p>I ask you to grant a dispensation from the impediment of Disparity of Worship (can. 1086).</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signature of the Catholic party _____</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signature of Other Party _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The other party does not wish to sign, but is clearly aware of the Catholic party's obligation.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister _____ Parish _____</p> <p>Print Name of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister _____ Address _____</p> <p>Date _____ Telephone _____ City/Zip _____</p> <p>Signature of Pastor (Required if the Submitting Minister is not a priest.) _____ Date _____</p>	
<p>If Dispensation is obtained BEFORE the petition is sent to the Tribunal:</p> <p>Granted by: _____ Date: _____</p>	
<p>[THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR THE TRIBUNAL SERVICES] I hereby grant the requested Dispensation from Disparity of Worship, in accordance with can. 1086, §2.</p> <p>Archbishop of Los Angeles/Vicar/Delegate _____ Date _____</p>	
<p><small>Revised February 2019</small></p>	

 <p>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</p>	<p><small>Para uso del Tribunal solamente</small> Causa: _____ No. de Prot.: _____</p>
<p>SOLICITUD DE DISPENSA DE DISPARIDAD DE CULTO</p>	
<p>Excelentísimo Sr. Arzobispo: Yo, _____, bautizado(a) en la Iglesia Católica, desco contraer matrimonio con _____, quien:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> nunca ha sido bautizado(a) <input type="checkbox"/> fue bautizado(a) dudosamente <input type="checkbox"/> fue bautizado(a) en la religión o secta de _____, pero su validez es dudosa. <input type="checkbox"/> Musulmán </p> <p>Solicito a Usted concederme la Dispensa del Impedimento de Disparidad de Culto. (can. 1086)</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Firma de la Persona Católica _____</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Firma de la Persona no Católica _____</p> <p>La persona no Católica no desea firmar, pero conoce claramente las obligaciones de su cónyuge.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Firma del Sacerdote/ Dácono/ Ministro Parroquial _____ Parroquia _____</p> <p>Nombre en LETRA IMPRIMENTA del Sacerdote/ Dácono/ Ministro _____ Dirección _____</p> <p>Fecha _____ Teléfono _____ Ciudad/ Código _____</p> <p>Firma del Párroco (necesaria si el Ministro no es sacerdote) _____ Fecha _____</p>	
<p>Si la Dispensa es otorgada ANTES de enviar la solicitud al Tribunal:</p> <p>Concedida por: _____ Fecha: _____</p>	
<p>[ESPACIO RESERVADO PARA EL TRIBUNAL] Por la presente se concede la Dispensa de Disparidad de Culto de acuerdo al canon 1086, §2.</p> <p>Arzobispo de Los Angeles/ Vicario/ Delegado _____ Fecha _____</p>	
<p><small>Revisado Febrero 2019</small></p>	

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>

 <p>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</p>	<p><small>For Tribunal Only</small> Case Name: _____ Prot. No.: _____</p>
<p>PETITION FOR DISPENSATION FROM CANONICAL FORM</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Catholic Party</p> <p>Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone: () _____ Parish of Baptism: _____ Address: _____ Telephone: () _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Other Party</p> <p>Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone: () _____ Religion: _____ Institution: _____ Address: _____ Rite: _____</p>
<p>WEDDING INFORMATION</p>	
<p>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): () _____</p>	
<p>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): <input type="checkbox"/> To achieve family harmony and avoid alienation <input type="checkbox"/> Close family connection with the particular Church <input type="checkbox"/> Special friendship with the officiant <input type="checkbox"/> To obtain parental agreement to the marriage <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	
<p>Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister _____ Parish _____ Print Name of Pastor/Parochial Vicar _____ Address _____ Date _____ Telephone _____ City/Zip _____</p>	
<p>Signature of Pastor (Required if the Submitting Minister is not a priest.) _____ Date _____</p>	
<p>In accordance with Canon 1127, §2, I hereby grant the requested Dispensation from Canonical Form, <i>servatus de iure servandis</i>. By: _____ Date: _____ Archbishop of Los Angeles/Vicar/Delegate</p>	
<p><small>Revised February 2019</small></p>	

<p>INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES FOR PROCESSING DISPENSATIONS FROM CANONICAL FORM</p>
<p><small>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 <i>Archdiocesan Guidelines for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs</i>, nn. 95-96, published in May 1988, and (d) the <i>Archdiocesan Guidelines of May 8, 1998</i>. Please refer to these sources and, in case of doubt, consult with the Tribunal.</small></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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). 2. 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. 3. 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. 4. 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"> a. the properly signed petition for a dispensation from disparity of worship, or b. the properly signed grant of permission for mixed marriage. 5. "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)." [<i>Policies Concerning the Place of Weddings, pg. 3-F</i>] 6. After the dispensation is granted, all documents related to the marriage should be forwarded to the parish of the Catholic party. 7. 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 <i>Archdiocesan Guidelines for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs</i>, number 96. 8. 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"> a. 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. b. 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. 9. 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.
<p><small>Revised February 2019</small></p>

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-Espan%CC%83ol.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**

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.

TESTIMONIAL LETTERS OR NIHIL OBSTAT

Groom	Bride
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
Telephone: _____	Telephone: _____
Religion: _____	Religion: _____
Parish: _____	Parish: _____

Place of Marriage:

Church: _____

City: _____

Diocese: _____

Priest/Deacon Celebrant:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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:	_____	

6. For Testimonial Letters only, fee (**required in advance of processing**): \$40 for normal handling, \$70 for expedited handling. Please make check payable to *Archdiocese of Los Angeles*: \$ _____

Concerning Bans: _____ 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 90010-2241 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 Name: _____ (Maiden Name if applicable) Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Baptismal Information Church: _____ Address: _____ Date: _____	OTHER PARTY Name: _____ (Maiden Name if applicable) Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Baptismal Information Church: _____ Address: _____ Date: _____
MARRIAGE Date: _____ Place: _____ License or Prot. # _____	DIVORCE 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: _____ Signature of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister: _____ PRINT Name of Priest/Deacon/Parish Minister: _____ Date: _____	Parish Name: _____ Parish Address: _____ Parish Phone Number & E-mail: _____ Date: _____ (Seal)
Revised February 2019 Fee Paid: _____ Date: _____	

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 Orthodox Christian 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 ensure if the Catholic party abandoned the faith by a formal act 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 may 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 why 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 additional information 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 Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk website. The main navigation includes VOTING & ELECTIONS, RECORDS, COUNTY CLERK, NEWSROOM, PUBLICATIONS, JOBS, and CONTACT. A search bar is located in the top right. The 'Apply for a Marriage License' tab is selected, showing a sidebar with links for 'Changing Your Name', 'Apply', and 'Recording Your Marriage Certificate'. The main content area is titled 'Apply' and contains the following text: '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.' Below this, it states 'Virtual Marriage License Appointment or Virtual Marriage License and Civil Ceremony Appointment'. The steps are: Step One: Complete the online application and record the confirmation number. Step Two: Book an appointment. A 'Make an Appointment' button is visible at the bottom.

VENTURA COUNTY

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

The screenshot shows the Ventura County Clerk-Recorder website. The header features a photo of Mark A. Lunn, County Clerk-Recorder, with the text 'MARK A. LUNN VENTURA COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER, REGISTRAR OF VOTERS PRESERVING HISTORY - PROTECTING DEMOCRACY'. The navigation includes County Clerk, County Recorder, and Elections. The 'Marriage Licenses' page is displayed, with a search bar and a sidebar menu. The main content area is titled 'Marriage Licenses' and contains the following text: 'OBTAINING A CALIFORNIA MARRIAGE LICENSE (Family Code section 350 et seq.) Marriage licenses can be obtained by appointment only at the Ventura County Government Center at the County Clerk's Office, Hall of Administration, Main Plaza, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1250. Call (805) 654-2263 to schedule an appointment. Marriage licenses issued to Ventura County residents only.' It also mentions that licenses can be obtained at the Thousand Oaks location at 2500 East Thousand Oaks Blvd, Suite A, Thousand Oaks, CA 91326. Types of Payment: Cash, Check and Debit and Credit cards. \$2.50 credit card fee per transaction. MARRIAGE LICENSE FORMS: The State Registrar prescribes and provides forms for the issuance of five types of marriage licenses (FC Section 350 and H&SC 100200), as well as the Affidavit to Amend a Marriage Record (VS24C). The 'License and Certificate of Marriage' (VS117) is the standard public marriage license (FC Section 359) - \$98.00.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

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

The screenshot shows the Santa Barbara County Clerk-Recorder website. The header includes 'SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HOME' and 'CARE Department'. The main navigation includes HOME, ABOUT US, REAL ESTATE RECORDS, VITAL RECORDS, MARRIAGES, FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES, and HISTORICAL ARCHIVES. The 'Apply for a Marriage License' page is displayed, with a sidebar menu. The main content area is titled 'Apply for a Marriage License' and contains the following text: '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 Ck-RecHelpDesk@co.santa-barbara.ca.us if you have an emergency or require special accommodations.' A note states: 'NOTE: You must have a wedding ceremony in order to be legally married.' Below this, it says 'Reserve Your Appointment'. Please use the Marriage Appointment Request to book your appointment. Appointments are first-come, first-served and not guaranteed until you receive a confirmation email. There is a non-refundable fee of \$23. Your request will not be processed until payment is received. Please allow 4-5 business days for processing. Three (3) Ways to pay the reservation fee: 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.