



**PRENUPTIAL INVESTIGATION**  
**(Including convalidations)**

**Form I**

**Archdiocese of Ottawa**

1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, ON, K1H 6K9  
Tel.: (613) 738-5025; Fax: (613) 738-0130

Groom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Legal Name

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Legal Name (include maiden name)

Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church City/Province

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ (Include a copy of executed civil marriage licence in the file.)

Priest/Deacon assisting at marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Civil Registration #: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission granted (if needed) by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Permission: \_\_\_\_\_  
If officiating at a marriage of a Catholic who is not a parishioner, secure permission from the Catholic's proper pastor.

Delegation granted (if needed) by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Delegation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Outside your assigned parish, secure delegation from that pastor or local ordinary.

Witnesses: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Preparation: \_\_\_\_\_ (include certificate in file)  
Date Place

+ When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic, either non-baptized or baptized non-Catholic, the Catholic must make the following declaration and promise so that a *dispensation* from disparity of worship/cult or a *permission* for a Catholic to marry a baptized non-Catholic will be granted by the local ordinary or his delegate:

- I reaffirm my faith in Jesus Christ and with God's help I intend to continue living that faith in the Catholic Church.
- I promise to do all in my power to share the faith I have received with our children by having them baptized and reared as Catholics.

The above declaration and promise is to be completed and signed on the Archdiocesan Petition – Form III.

#### **Post Marriage Checklist**

- Marriage has been entered in the sacramental register of the parish.
- Notifications of marriage have been sent to both parishes of baptism of the parties.
- Civil licence has been sent to Office of the Registrar General.

*(Priest, deacon or designated lay pastoral assistant is to complete the following forms. Groom and bride are to be interviewed separately.)*

# GROOM

Do you swear to tell the whole truth in answering these questions? \_\_\_\_\_

Known personally  Proof of Identification  \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal age for marriage in Canada is 18

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (with Apartment/Unit #)

City/Province/Postal Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Work/Cellular: (Area Code) Number

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite (if other than Latin): \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Include mother's maiden name)

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite (if other than Latin): \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite (if other than Latin): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Church

City/Province

+ If baptized non-Catholic, secure a *permission* for a Catholic to marry a baptized non-Catholic.

+ If not baptized, secure a *dispensation* from disparity of worship/cult.

***Complete Petition Form III and send entire file to the Chancery Office***

Secure: recent Catholic baptismal certificate (issued within approximately 6 months of the interview) or proof of baptism for baptized non-Catholic and an Affidavit of Freedom to Marry. (See Form II)

## If Catholic:

→Have you received First Eucharist?  Yes  No

→Have you received Confirmation?  Yes  No (Catholics are expected to be confirmed before marriage. For a serious reason, confirmation may be postponed to a later date)

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

Church

City/Province

Within what parish do you live or are registered? \_\_\_\_\_

Parish

City/Province

1. How long have you known each other? \_\_\_\_\_ Dated? \_\_\_\_\_ Engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

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

3. Have you ever been married before (church; civil; etc.)?.....  Yes\*  No

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

5. Are you or your fiancée bound by the impediments of age; sacred orders; public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute; abduction; crime; public propriety?.....  Yes\*  No

**(For a description of the above mentioned impediments, see p. 7)**

6. Have you or your fiancé experienced or been treated for any mental or emotional, alcohol or drug-related difficulties?  Yes  No  
 If yes, are they resolved?.....  Yes  No\*
7. Have you signed a prenuptial agreement? (If yes, attach a copy of agreement. Contact the Chancery).....  Yes\*  No
8. Are you placing any conditions on or have you any serious doubts about this marriage?.....  Yes\*  No
9. Do you understand and agree without any reservations to the nature and obligation of marriage namely:
- a) To give sacrificially of self for the total wellbeing of each other and the marital partnership? .....  Yes  No\*
  - b) To share in marital intercourse since marriage involves a sexual relationship? .....  Yes  No\*
  - c) To give your spouse the right to have children and see to their educational upbringing? .....  Yes  No\*
  - d) To make an unconditional, permanent commitment, lasting until the death of your spouse? .....  Yes  No\*
  - e) To be faithful to your spouse? .....  Yes  No\*
  - f) To give your consent freely and without any force or pressure from any person or circumstance? .....  Yes  No\*
10. Is your fiancée pregnant? (To be asked only if there is suspicion of pressure to marry) .....  Yes\*  No
11. Does your fiancée, as far as you know, agree to your answers?.....  Yes  No\*
12. Is there any important fact about you which you have not shared with your fiancée?.....  Yes\*  No  
 (e.g., addictions, illness, trouble with the law; indebtedness; sterility; sexuality; child(ren) from a prior relationship, etc.)
13. Do you have any children from *any* previous relationship?.....  Yes  No  
 If yes, have the moral and civil responsibilities to any former spouse(s)/party and any child(ren) been fulfilled?.....  Yes  No\*  
 If no, or there is some question about compliance, contact the Chancery.

**\*Explain below any response that included an asterisk (\*) and contact the Chancery as soon as possible. For #8 and #9a-f, an asterisked response prevents a couple from marrying. For #3-5, see impediments on page 7. Other comments may be added below or on additional paper.**

**Comments of the Interviewer**

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**\*\*\*PARISH SEAL\*\*\***

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Groom

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature  Priest or  Deacon or  Designated Lay Pastoral Assistant      Print name

**PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S) of GROOM**

Freedom can be established by: (Give date of certificate, protocol number, and retain copy for your file)

Death of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Decree(s) of Nullity: \_\_\_\_\_

Privilege of the Faith: \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of Canonical Form: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Except for the death of a spouse, no date for a marriage may be set until the final Decree(s) of Nullity/Dissolution is obtained and a *Nihil Obstat* is granted by the Chancery Office (Petition – Form III).

**BRIDE**

Do you swear to tell the whole truth in answering these questions? \_\_\_\_\_

Known personally  Proof of Identification  \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal age for marriage in Canada is 18

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (with Apartment/Unit #)

City/Province/Postal Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Work/Cellular: (Area Code) Number

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite (if other than Latin): \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Include mother's maiden name)

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite (if other than Latin): \_\_\_\_\_

Brides's Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite (if other than Latin): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Church

City/Province

+ If baptized non-Catholic, secure a *permission* for a Catholic to marry a baptized non-Catholic.

+ If not baptized, secure a *dispensation* from disparity of worship/cult.

**Complete Petition Form V and send entire file to the Chancery Office**

Secure: recent Catholic baptismal certificate (issued within approximately 6 months of the interview) or proof of baptism for baptized non-Catholic and an Affidavit of Freedom to Marry. (See Form II)

If Catholic:

→Have you received First Eucharist?  Yes  No

→Have you received Confirmation?  Yes  No (Catholics are expected to be confirmed before marriage. For a serious reason, confirmation may be postponed to a later date)

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

Church

City/Province

Within what parish do you live or are registered? \_\_\_\_\_

Parish

City/Province

1. How long have you known each other? \_\_\_\_\_ Dated? \_\_\_\_\_ Engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

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

3. Have you ever been married before (church; civil; etc.)? If yes, complete box on page 2. ....  Yes\*  No

4. Are you related to your fiancé by blood, marriage, or legal adoption?.....  Yes\*  No

5. Are you or your fiancée bound by the impediments of age; sacred orders; public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute; abduction; crime; public propriety?.....  Yes\*  No

**(For a description of the above mentioned impediments, see p. 7)**

6. Have you or your fiancé experienced or been treated for any mental or emotional, alcohol or drug-related difficulties?  Yes  No  
 If yes, are they resolved?.....  Yes  No\*
7. Have you signed a prenuptial agreement? (If yes, attach a copy of agreement. Contact the Chancery).....  Yes\*  No
8. Are you placing any conditions on or have you any serious doubts about this marriage?.....  Yes\*  No
9. Do you understand and agree without any reservations to the nature and obligation of marriage namely:
- a) To give sacrificially of self for the total wellbeing of each other and the marital partnership? .....  Yes  No\*
  - b) To share in marital intercourse since marriage involves a sexual relationship? .....  Yes  No\*
  - c) To give your spouse the right to have children and see to their educational upbringing? .....  Yes  No\*
  - d) To make an unconditional, permanent commitment, lasting until the death of your spouse? .....  Yes  No\*
  - e) To be faithful to your spouse? .....  Yes  No\*
  - f) To give your consent freely and without any force or pressure from any person or circumstance? .....  Yes  No\*
10. Are you pregnant? (To be asked only if there is suspicion of pressure to marry) .....  Yes\*  No
11. Does your fiancé, as far as you know, agree to your answers?.....  Yes  No\*
12. Is there any important fact about you which you have not shared with your fiancé?.....  Yes\*  No  
 (e.g., addictions, illness, trouble with the law; indebtedness; sterility; sexuality; child(ren) from a prior relationship, etc.)
13. Do you have any children from *any* previous relationship?.....  Yes  No  
 If yes, have the moral and civil responsibilities to any former spouse(s)/party and any child(ren) been fulfilled?.....  Yes  No\*  
 If no or there is some question about compliance, contact the Chancery.

**\*Explain below any response that included an asterisk (\*) and contact the Chancery as soon as possible. For #8 and #9a-f, an asterisked response prevents a couple from marrying. For #3-5, see impediments on page 7. Other comments may be added below or on additional paper.**

**Comments of the Interviewer**

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**\*\*\*PARISH SEAL\*\*\***

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Bride

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature  Priest or  Deacon or  Designated Lay Pastoral Assistant      Print name

**PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S) of BRIDE**

Freedom can be established by: (Give date of certificate, protocol number, and retain copy for your file)

Death of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Decree(s) of Nullity: \_\_\_\_\_

Privilege of the Faith: \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of Canonical Form: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Except for the death of a spouse, no date for a marriage may be set until the final Decree(s) of Nullity/Dissolution is obtained and a *Nihil Obstat* is granted by the Chancery Office (Petition – Form III).

**REFERENCE GUIDE: Always contact the Chancery with any questions!**

**Brief Definitions of Marriage Impediments (cc. 1083-1094)**

**Divine Natural Law Impediments**

**that no dispensation may be granted by anyone, neither Rome nor a diocesan bishop:**

**Impotence** (c. 1084, §1): Antecedent and perpetual incapacity of groom/bride to perform a complete conjugal act (marital sexual intercourse). Sterility (the inability to impregnate or to conceive) is not an impediment (c. 1084, §3).

**Prior Bond** (*Ligamen* c. 1085): A person with a presumably valid prior bond cannot marry again as long as the first spouse is living. If a Catholic decree of declaration of nullity is granted by a Catholic Tribunal, then one is free to marry. But it is a decree of nullity, not a dispensation.

**Consanguinity** (blood relationships c. 1091): One can never marry in the direct line any ancestor and descendant, both legitimate and natural (grandparent, parent, child, grandchild) or in the second degree of the collateral line (brother and sister) (c. 1078, §3).

**Ecclesiastical Law Impediments that a diocesan bishop or other local ordinary may dispense (c. 1078, §1):**

**Disparity of Worship/Cult** (c. 1086): A marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized person.

**Perpetual Vow of Chastity** (c. 1088): Must petition diocesan bishop *if* the person is a member of a *diocesan* right institute. If it is a *pontifical* right institute, see below for impediments that only Holy See may dispense.

**Abduction** (c. 1089): A marriage between a man and a woman whom he abducts or detains in order to marry.

**Consanguinity** (blood relationships c. 1091): A dispensation can be granted for the fourth degree (first cousins) in the collateral line to marry.

**Affinity** (relationships from a valid marriage, death or dissolution of bond, c. 1092): One cannot marry in the direct line in any degree (marrying a *deceased/dissolved* spouse's grandparent, parent or spouse's child or grandchild from a different relationship).

**Public Propriety** (c. 1093): If after an invalid marriage or public concubinage (cohabitation), a man cannot marry a woman's mother or her daughter from a different relationship OR a woman cannot marry a man's father or his son from a different relationship.

**Adoption** (c. 1094): An adopted person cannot marry his/her adopted grandparents, parents or siblings.

**Ecclesiastical Law Impediments that only the Holy See may dispense:**

**Sacred Orders** (c. 1087): Must petition Rome for a Dispensation from Obligations Arising from Sacred Order of Presbyterate or Diaconate, including that from Celibacy (c. 1078, §2, 1°).

**Perpetual Vow of Chastity** (c. 1088): Must petition Rome *if* the person is a member of a *pontifical* right institute (c. 1078, §2, 1°).

**Crime** (c. 1090): One kills one's own spouse to marry another person or one kills the spouse of an intended spouse so as to marry that person. OR if two people conspire to bring about the death of the spouse of one of them for any reason, they invalidly attempt marriage together (c. 1078, §2, 2°).

## Important Reminders

- Secure any permission/dispensation from the Catholic bishop in whose diocese the Catholic groom/bride lives, regardless of where the marriage ceremony will occur.
- If a Catholic is marrying a non-baptized person, secure a *dispensation* from disparity of worship/cult (c. 1086, §2).
  - If a Catholic is marrying a baptized non-Catholic, secure a *permission* for a Catholic to marry a baptized non-Catholic (c.1124).
  - If a Catholic will be married by a non-Catholic officiant, secure a *dispensation* from canonical form (c. 1127, §2).
- If officiating at a marriage of a Catholic who is not a parishioner, secure permission from the Catholic's proper pastor (cc.1115; 1118,§1).
- Assigned parish priest or deacon (with the permission of the pastor) *normally* has the faculty to officiate at any marriage within one's parish territory. If officiating at a marriage outside your assigned parish, secure delegation from that pastor or local ordinary (c.1111; also cf. c.137).
- Secure a recent Baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months, with any sacramental notations listed on the back) for the Catholic.
- Secure proof of baptism (Baptismal certificate, letter from minister or witness – c. 876) for a baptized non-Catholic.
- Secure Witness Affidavits of Freedom to Marry for the groom and for the bride.
- Importance of reception of all three sacraments of initiation prior to marriage: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. c. 842, §2.
- Confirmation prior to marriage expected, though not required for validity (c. 1065, §1).
  - Encouraged to receive Eucharist and Penance regularly (c. 1065, §2).
  - A valid marriage is a sacrament when both spouses are baptized validly. A valid marriage between a baptized person and a non-baptized person (or between two non-baptized persons) is not sacrament. (c. 1055, §2)
- Marriage file is stored *normally* in the parish where the marriage ceremony with canonical form occurred (c. 1121, §1). Canonical form=Canon 1108: marrying before a Catholic priest or deacon and two witnesses.
- Marriage file is stored in the parish where the prenuptial investigation and the request for the dispensation from canonical form occurred when a marriage ceremony occurred without canonical form (c. 1121, §3).
- If the marriage ceremony is to occur outside your diocese, this marriage file is to be sent to the Chancery.
- When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic, either non-baptized or baptized non-Catholic, the Catholic must make the following declaration and promise so that a *dispensation* from disparity of worship/cult (c. 1086, §2) or a *permission* for a Catholic to marry a baptized non-Catholic (c. 1124) will be granted by the local ordinary or his delegate:
- I reaffirm my faith in Jesus Christ and with God's help I intend to continue living that faith in the Catholic Church. (c. 1125, 1<sup>o</sup>)
  - I promise to do all in my power to share the faith I have received with our children by having them baptized and reared as Catholics. (c. 1125, 1<sup>o</sup>)

The above declaration and promise is to be completed and signed on the Archdiocesan Petition – Form V.