

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK



PRENUPTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE (ALSO FOR CONVALIDATIONS)

The priest or deacon is to print out and complete this form found at archny.org/tribunal. Groom and bride are to be interviewed separately. Please print clearly.

Do you promise, before God, to tell the truth in answer to the questions that shall be asked of you? [] Yes [] No

Groom: _____ Bride: _____
Full Legal Name Full Legal Name (Maiden Name)

Place of Marriage: _____
Name of Church City/State

Date of Marriage: _____ (Include a copy of signed civil marriage license in the file when received.)

Witnesses: _____ and _____

Priest/Deacon Officiating at Marriage: _____

Permission granted (if needed) by: _____ Date of Permission: _____

* If officiating at a marriage of a Catholic who is not your parishioner, obtain permission from the Catholic's proper pastor.

Delegation granted (if needed) by: _____ Date of Delegation: _____

* If officiating at a marriage outside your assigned parish, obtain delegation from that pastor or local Ordinary.

Dispensation granted (if needed) by: _____ Date of Dispensation: _____

* If officiating at a marriage of a Catholic who is marrying a free non-baptized person, obtain a dispensation from Disparity of Worship/Cult.

Permission granted (if needed) by: _____ Date of Permission: _____

* If officiating at a marriage of a Catholic who is marrying a free baptized non-Catholic person, obtain permission for Mixed Marriage.

* If the bride or the groom had a previous marriage in any type of ceremony, please see "Prior Marriage(s)" sections.

GROOM

Full Name: _____ Date/Place of Birth: _____

Address: _____
Number/Street (include Apartment/Unit #) City/State/Zip Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Home/Work/Cellular: (Area Code) Number

Father's Name: _____ Religion: _____
Rite (If Eastern Catholic)

Mother's Name: _____ Religion: _____
(Include mother's maiden name) Rite (If Eastern Catholic)

Groom's Religion: _____ Did it ever change? _____
Yes/No If Yes: When/What Religion/s

* If not baptized, obtain a dispensation from Disparity of Worship/Cult.

* If validly baptized non-Catholic and bride is Catholic, obtain permission for a Mixed Marriage and his baptismal record.

Place of Baptism: _____
(obtain recent baptismal certificate) Name of Church City/State Date

If baptized Eastern Catholic, indicate the Rite: _____

Within what parish do you live? _____
Name of Church City/State

Profession of Faith (if applicable): _____
* Obtain a certificate Name of Church City/State Date

Have you received First Penance and Holy Communion? Yes No _____
(If not, arrange for preparation and reception of sacraments) If Yes: Name of Church City/State Date

Have you received Confirmation? Yes No _____
(If not, arrange for preparation and reception of sacrament) If Yes: Name of Church City/State Date

Respond to the following and explain any responses marked with an asterisk (*). For #8, #10a-f, and #11, an asterisked response may prevent a couple from marrying. For #4-6, see impediments on page 7. Contact the Chancery if you have any questions.

- 1) Are you contracting marriage: A) for the purpose of truly seeking marriage itself B) for another purpose? A B*
- 2) How long have you known the bride? _____ Length of courtship? _____ Length of engagement? _____
- 3) Do you regularly participate in the practice of your faith? Yes No*
- 4) Have you ever been married before (any church, civil, etc.)? (If yes, complete page 3.) Yes* No
- 5) Are you related to your fiancée by blood or legal adoption, or has she married previously into your family? Yes* No
- 6) Are you or your fiancée bound by the impediment/s of age, sacred orders, public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute, abduction, crime, or public propriety? (see page 7) Yes* No
- 7) Have you ever experienced/been treated for any psychological/emotional/addiction-related difficulty?
If yes, is it resolved? Yes* No
 Yes No*
- 8) Have you undergone surgery in order to attempt a sex-change or in any other manner taken measures in an attempt to change your gender? Yes* No
(If the answer to the above is 'yes' then he cannot enter into a valid marriage [see Canon 1055]. If there is any question about a particular case, please contact the chancery.)
- 9) Have you signed a prenuptial agreement? (If yes, attach a copy of the agreement.) Yes* No
- 10) Do you understand and agree without any reservations to the nature and obligations of marriage, namely:
 - a) To give oneself to the other to form a common partnership of love and life? Yes No*
 - b) To share in marital intercourse? Yes No* Have you ever been diagnosed with impotence? Yes* No
 - c) To give your spouse the right to intimate relations open to procreation (without contraception) and to see to the fulfillment of obligations related to the Catholic religious/moral upbringing of children? Yes No*
 - d) To make a permanent commitment until the death of your spouse? Yes No*
 - e) To be faithful to your spouse throughout the entire marriage, including never to view pornographic material? Yes No*

- f) To give your consent freely and willingly, without being forced or pressured by anyone/any circumstance? Yes No*
If there is suspicion of pressure being exerted, an explanation is needed. (Ex. Is your fiancée pregnant? etc.)
- 11) Are you placing any conditions on/or do you have any serious reservations about this marriage? Yes* No
- 12) Would your fiancée agree with your answers to these questions if she knew them? Yes No*
- 13) Is there any important fact about you which you have not shared with your fiancée? Yes* No
 (e.g., abortions, addictions, illness, trouble with the law, indebtedness, sterility, sexuality, child(ren) from a prior relationship, etc.)
- 14) If groom or bride is age 17 or younger (*As per NYS law*) please **ASK**: Do both parents consent to this marriage? Yes No*
 (For more information see: <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/4210/>)
- 15) Do you have any children from any previous relationship? Yes No
 If yes, are the moral and civil responsibilities to any former spouse(s)/ and any child(ren) being fulfilled? Yes No*

Explain here any responses given above which included an asterisk (*):

PRIOR MARRIAGE(S) of GROOM

NOTE: The prior marriage of two non-Catholics is presumed to be valid and binding and constitutes an impediment to a new marriage. There could be a variety of situations with prior marriages. If you have any doubt, please contact the Chancery.

How many times were you married in **any type of ceremony**? _____

NOTE: When there is a prior marriage NO wedding ceremony can be scheduled until a) the final Decree(s) of Nullity/Dissolution is granted by a Catholic Church tribunal; or b) the certificate of death of the spouse is presented.

List name(s) of previous spouse(s), name(s) of church(s)/place(s) of marriage ceremony, city/state, title of officiant(s), date(s):

How did each marriage end? Death of Former Spouse Divorce Declaration of Nullity Privilege or Dispensation Granted
 Attach a copy of the death certificate, civil divorce/annulment, the decree of nullity, or the decree of dissolution granted by a Catholic Church Tribunal.

* If you were baptized Catholic and contracted a marriage outside the Catholic Church without a dispensation from canonical form, that union is invalid. If you presently wish to marry that same partner in the Catholic Church (convalidation), the Catholic ceremony will begin a valid marriage and will not be the blessing of the existing union.

Date of present non-Catholic union: _____ Attach copy (long form) of civil marriage certificate.

* If you and your spouse were not baptized Catholics at the time you married and this is the only marriage for both of you and now you wish to marry in the Catholic Church, your non-Catholic marriage is presumed to be valid and binding.

 Signature of Groom

 Date Signed

 Signature of Priest or Deacon

 Type/print name

 Place Signed

PARISH SEAL

BRIDE

Full Name: _____ Date/Place of Birth: _____

Address: _____
Number/Street (include Apartment/Unit #) City/State/Zip Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Home/Work/Cellular: (Area Code) Number

Father's Name: _____ Religion: _____ Rite (If Eastern Catholic)

Mother's Name: _____ Religion: _____ Rite (If Eastern Catholic)
(Include mother's maiden name)

Bride's Religion: _____ Did it ever change? _____
Yes/No If Yes: When/What Religion/s

* If not baptized, obtain a dispensation from Disparity of Worship/Cult.

* If validly baptized non-Catholic and groom is Catholic, obtain permission for a Mixed Marriage and her baptismal record.

Place of Baptism: _____
(obtain recent baptismal certificate) Name of Church City/State Date

If baptized Eastern Catholic, indicate the Rite: _____

Within what parish do you live? _____
Name of Church City/State

Profession of Faith (if applicable): _____
* Obtain a certificate Name of Church City/State Date

Have you received First Penance and Holy Communion? Yes No _____
(If not, arrange for preparation and reception of sacraments) If Yes: Name of Church City/State Date

Have you received Confirmation? Yes No _____
(If not, arrange for preparation and reception of sacrament) If Yes: Name of Church City/State Date

Respond to the following and explain below any response that included an asterisk (*). For #8, #10a-f, and #11, an asterisked response may prevent a couple from marrying. For #4-6, see impediments on page 7. Contact the Chancery if you have any questions.

- 1) Are you contracting marriage: A) for the purpose of truly seeking marriage itself B) for another purpose? A B*
- 2) How long have you known the groom? _____ Length of courtship? _____ Length of engagement? _____
- 3) Do you regularly participate in the practice of your faith? Yes No*
- 4) Have you ever been married before (any church, civil, etc.)? (If yes, complete page 5.) Yes* No
- 5) Are you related to your fiancé by blood or legal adoption, or has he married previously into your family? Yes* No
- 6) Are you or your fiancé bound by the impediment/s of age, sacred orders, public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute, abduction, crime, or public propriety? (see page 7) Yes* No

- 7) Have you ever experienced/been treated for any psychological/emotional/addiction-related difficulty? Yes* No
If yes, is it resolved? Yes No*
- 8) Have you undergone surgery in order to attempt a sex-change or in any other manner taken measures in an attempt to change your gender? Yes* No
(If the answer to the above is 'yes' then she cannot enter into a valid marriage [see Canon 1055]. If there is any question about a particular case, please contact the chancery.)
- 9) Have you signed a prenuptial agreement? (If yes, attach a copy of agreement.) Yes* No
- 10) Do you understand and agree without any reservations to the nature and obligations of marriage, namely:
- a) To give oneself to the other to form a common partnership of love and life? Yes No*
 - b) To share in marital intercourse? Yes No*
Have you ever been diagnosed with any physical and/or psychological sexual dysfunction? Yes* No
 - c) To give your spouse the right to intimate relations open to procreation (without contraception) and to see to the fulfillment of obligations related to the Catholic religious/moral upbringing of children? Yes No*
 - d) To make a permanent commitment until the death of your spouse? Yes No*
 - e) To be faithful to your spouse throughout the entire marriage, including never to view pornographic material? Yes No*
 - f) To give your consent freely and willingly, without being forced or pressured by anyone/any circumstance? Yes No*
there is suspicion of pressure being exerted, an explanation is needed. (Ex. Are you pregnant? etc.)
- 11) Are you placing any conditions on/or do you have any serious reservations about this marriage? Yes* No
- 12) Would your fiancé agree with your answers to these questions if he knew them? Yes No*
- 13) Is there any important fact about you which you have not shared with your fiancé? Yes* No
(e.g., abortions, addictions, illness, trouble with the law, indebtedness, sterility, sexuality, child(ren) from a prior relationship, etc.)
- 14) If groom or bride is age 17 or younger (*As per NYS law*) please ASK: Do both parents consent to this marriage? Yes No*
(For more information see: <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/4210/>)
- 15) Do you have any children from any previous relationship? Yes No
If yes, are the moral and civil responsibilities to any former spouse(s)/ and any child(ren) being fulfilled? Yes No*

Explain here any responses given above that included an asterisk (*):

PRIOR MARRIAGE(S) of BRIDE

NOTE: The prior marriage of two non-Catholics is presumed to be valid and binding and constitutes an impediment to a new marriage. There could be a variety of situations with prior marriages. If you have any doubt, please contact the Chancery.

How many times were you married in **any type of ceremony**? _____

NOTE: When there is a prior marriage NO wedding ceremony can be scheduled until a) the final Decree(s) of Nullity/Dissolution is granted by a Catholic Church tribunal; or b) the certificate of death of the spouse is presented.

List name(s) of previous spouse(s), name(s) of church(s)/place(s) of marriage ceremony, city/state, title of officiant(s), date(s):

How did each marriage end? Death of Former Spouse Divorce Declaration of Nullity Privilege or Dispensation Granted
Attach a copy of the death certificate, civil divorce/annulment, the decree of nullity, or the decree of dissolution granted by a Catholic Church Tribunal.

* If you were baptized Catholic and contracted a marriage outside the Catholic Church without a dispensation from canonical form, that union is invalid. If you presently wish to marry that same partner in the Catholic Church (convalidation), the Catholic ceremony will begin a valid marriage, and will not be the blessing of the existing union.

Date of present non-Catholic union: _____ Attach copy (long form) of civil marriage certificate.

* If you and your spouse were not baptized Catholics at the time you married and this is the only marriage for both of you and now you wish to marry in the Catholic Church, your non-Catholic marriage is presumed to be valid and binding.

Signature of Bride Date Signed

Signature of Priest or Deacon Type/print name

Place Signed *PARISH SEAL*

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

PRENUPTIAL FILE – WITNESS AFFIDAVIT



The priest or deacon has the option to request witness' affidavits if needed to obtain further knowledge of the parties, and their intentions and readiness to enter a marriage. Witnesses should be family members or close friends who have known the bride/groom for several years.

Name of Bride/Groom for whom you are completing this Affidavit:

1) How are you related to the above-named person? _____ Year you met him/her _____
(Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Friend, etc.)

2) Does this person intend in this marriage: Yes/No/Don't Know
 a) To give him/herself to the spouse for the total well-being of the common partnership of life? _____
 b) To accept children lovingly from God (intimacy without contraception) and see to their upbringing? _____
 c) To make an unconditional, permanent commitment to stay until the death of his/her spouse? _____
 d) To be faithful to his/her spouse throughout the entire marriage? _____

3) Was this person ever baptized? Yes No Uncertain
 If yes, in which denomination and when? _____

4) Has this person ever been married at any time in his/her life, in any kind of ceremony whether religious or civil?
 Yes No If yes, how many times? _____
 List the full name(s) of previous spouse(s): _____
 How did prior marriage(s) end? Divorce Death of spouse Catholic Church annulment Other _____

If married previously, is this person meeting his/her moral/civil responsibilities toward the former spouse(s) and any child/children? Yes No *

5) Is this person related to his/her intended spouse by blood, marriage, or legal adoption? Yes* No

6) Has this person ever been ordained a Catholic priest/deacon or been in a Catholic religious community? Yes* No

7) Is any person or circumstance forcing or putting pressure upon the bride/groom to marry? Yes* No

8) Does this person have or has ever had any physical, psychological, emotional or psychiatric problem? Or any problem with substance abuse, gambling, violence, etc.? Yes* No

9) Do the parents of the bride/groom, you, or anyone else have any reservations about this marriage? Yes* No

Please explain here any previous response that included an asterisk (*) and use additional paper if needed:

If you know of any reason(s) why this marriage should not occur or have information you believe should be made known about this marriage, please explain and use additional paper if needed:

Signature of Witness

Signature Priest or Deacon

Type/print name

Type /print name

Address of Witness

Parish

*SEAL

City/State

Date Signed

City/State

Date signed

REFERENCE GUIDE

Always contact the Chancery with any questions!

Marriage Impediments (Code of Canon Law, canons 1083-1094)

1. Impediments of Divine Natural Law that cannot be dispensed by anyone:

- A) **Impotence:** Antecedent and perpetual incapacity of groom/bride to perform a complete conjugal act, i.e., marital sexual intercourse. Sterility or the inability to impregnate or to conceive is not an impediment.
- B) **Prior Bond; Ligamen.** A person with a prior bond cannot marry again as long as the first spouse is living since the marriage is presumed valid. If a decree of declaration of nullity or a dissolution is granted by a Catholic Tribunal, then the person could be free to marry.
- C) **Consanguinity:** Blood relationships in the direct line, any ancestor and descendant, i.e. parent, grandparent, etc., or in the second degree of the collateral line, i.e. brother and sister, legitimate, natural, or adoptive.

2. Impediments of Ecclesiastical Law that a diocesan bishop or local Ordinary may dispense:

- A) **Disparity of Worship/Cult:** Is required for a marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized person.
- B) **Perpetual Vow of Chastity:** If the person is a member of a religious institute of *diocesan* right, not pontifical right.
- C) **Abduction:** A marriage between a man and a woman whom he abducts or detains in order to marry.
- D) **Consanguinity:** Blood relationships in the collateral line.
- E) **Affinity:** Marrying someone who became a relative of the person through a valid marriage to some family member and is now free to marry, never in the direct line, in any degree.
- F) **Public Propriety:** A man/woman cannot marry a woman/man related by consanguinity in the first degree of the direct line to the woman/man he/she lived with together in an invalid marriage or in a notorious or public concubinage.

3. Impediments of Ecclesiastical Law that only the Holy See may dispense:

- A) **Sacred Orders**
- B) **Perpetual Vow of Chastity:** In a religious institute of pontifical right.
- C) **Crime:** Murdering one's spouse or someone else's in view of marriage, or any mutual physical or moral action that causes the death or either's spouse to marry the surviving spouse.

Reception of Sacraments of Initiation Prior to Marriage

A **marriage** is sacramental when both spouses are baptized validly. A marriage between a baptized person and an unbaptized person (or between two unbaptized persons) is not a sacrament, but presumed to be valid. A prior marriage of two non-Catholics is also presumed to be valid.

- A) **Baptism** of at least one of the spouses is required.
- B) **Confirmation** prior to marriage is highly encouraged, if possible, but not required.
- C) **Eucharist** and **Penance** reception is to be encouraged.

Types of marriage ceremonies from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony:

Celebration of Marriage:

- A) **During Mass:** Normally for two Catholics. May also be for a Catholic and a validly *baptized* non-Catholic provided that, according to the general law, Communion is not given to the non-Catholic.
- B) **Outside Mass:** Always for a marriage between a Catholic and an unbaptized person. (Only use the rite for unbaptized).

Other Important Information

1. **Rite:** If the groom and/or bride are Eastern Catholic, please contact the Chancery.
2. **Canonical Form:** Catholics are to be married before a properly delegated Catholic priest or deacon and two witnesses, in a church. Dispensations to marry outside the church when only one is Catholic may be granted.
3. **Dispensation/Permission/Delegation:** Obtain any permission/dispensation from the Catholic bishop in whose diocese the Catholic groom/bride lives, regardless of where the marriage ceremony will occur. Please keep record in the file.
 - If a Catholic is marrying a non-baptized person, obtain a *dispensation* from Disparity of Worship/Cult.
 - If a Catholic is marrying a (validly) baptized non-Catholic, obtain a *permission* for a Mixed Marriage.
 - If a Catholic will be married by a non-Catholic officiant, obtain a dispensation from canonical form and if needed a dispensation from the place of celebration.
 - If officiating at a marriage of two Catholics and neither is your parishioner, obtain permission from the Catholic's proper pastor.
 - If officiating at a marriage outside your assigned parish, obtain delegation from that pastor, associate pastor, or local Ordinary.
4. **Forbidden:** It is forbidden for the Catholic assistant in a religious celebration of marriage and the non-Catholic minister, each performing his own rite, to ask together for the consent of the parties.
5. **Documents:**
 - A) For a baptized Catholic, obtain a recent Baptismal certificate (or Profession of Faith certificate if applicable) issued within the last 6 months, with any sacramental notations listed.
 - B) For a (validly) baptized non-Catholic, obtain proof of baptism.
 - C) For anyone with a prior marriage whose spouse died, obtain a certificate of death. If applicable, obtain a copy of decree of declaration of nullity/dissolution granted by a Catholic Church tribunal.
6. **Marriage File:** The marriage file is stored *normally* in the parish where the marriage with canonical form occurred (other situations may arise, i.e. the marriage takes place at a university chapel, hospital, etc.). When the marriage ceremony occurred with a dispensation for lack of canonical form, the marriage file is stored in the parish where the prenuptial investigation and the request for dispensation from canonical form occurred. If the marriage ceremony is to occur outside the Archdiocese, the marriage file is to be sent to the Chancery. Keep a copy.