

Type or print clearly.

PRENUPTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE, including convalidations (c. 1067)
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



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

Place of Marriage Ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_
c. 1118 Church City/State (Include a copy of executed civil marriage license in the file.)

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

Person(s) providing marriage preparation: \_\_\_\_\_

Priest/Deacon officiating at marriage ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission granted (if needed) by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Permission: \_\_\_\_\_
cc. 1115; 1118, §1—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: \_\_\_\_\_
c. 1111—If officiating at a marriage outside your assigned parish, secure delegation from that pastor or local ordinary (also cf. c. 137).

(Priest, deacon or designated lay pastoral assistant is to complete this form. Groom and bride are to be interviewed separately.)

GROOM

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_
Address (with Apartment/Unit #) County City/State/Zip Code

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

Father’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite: \_\_\_\_\_
(Include mother’s maiden name.)

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

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_
Church City/State

- + If not baptized, secure a dispensation from disparity of worship/cult (c. 1086, §2).
+ If baptized non-Catholic, secure a permission for a Catholic to marry a baptized non-Catholic (c. 1124).
Secure: recent Catholic baptismal certificate or proof of baptism for baptized non-Catholic and two Affidavits of Freedom to Marry for a groom.

If Catholic:

→Date of Profession of Faith: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_
(If applicable, secure recent POF certificate.) Church City/State

→Have you received First Eucharist? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_
Church City/State

→Have you received Confirmation? [ ] Yes [ ] No (If no, encourage him to be confirmed if possible before marriage—c. 1065, §1.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_
Church City/State

→Within what parish do you live? \_\_\_\_\_
Parish City/State

- 1. Do you agree to answer all questions truthfully?..... [ ] Yes [ ] No\*
2. How long have you known each other? \_\_\_\_\_ Dated? \_\_\_\_\_ Engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you regularly participate in the practice of your faith?..... [ ] Yes [ ] No\*
4. Have you ever been married before (church; civil; common law; etc.)? c. 1085 (If yes, complete box on page 2.)..... [ ] Yes\* [ ] No
5. Are you related to your fiancée by blood (c. 1091), marriage (c. 1092), or legal adoption (c. 1094)?..... [ ] Yes\* [ ] No
6. Are you or your fiancée bound by the impediments of age (c. 1083); sacred orders (c. 1087); public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute (c. 1088); abduction (c. 1089); crime (c. 1090); public propriety (c. 1093)?..... [ ] Yes\* [ ] No

Type or print clearly.

7. Have you or your fiancée experienced or been treated for any mental or emotional, alcohol or drug-related difficulties? (cc. 1057; 1095).....  Yes\*  No  
 If yes, are they resolved?.....  Yes  No\*
8. Have you signed a prenuptial agreement? (If yes, attach a copy of agreement. Contact the Tribunal/Chancery.).....  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 well being of each other and the marital partnership? (c. 1055, §1).....  Yes  No\*
  - b) To share in marital intercourse since marriage involves a sexual relationship? (c. 1061, §1; impotence c. 1084).....  Yes  No\*
  - c) To give your spouse the right to have children and see to their educational upbringing? (cc. 1055, §1; 1136).....  Yes  No\*
  - d) To make an unconditional, permanent commitment, lasting until the death of your spouse? (cc. 1056; 1102, §1)...  Yes  No\*
  - e) To be faithful to your spouse? (c. 1056).....  Yes  No\*
  - f) To give your consent freely and without any force or pressure from any person or circumstance? (cc.1057; 1103)..  Yes  No\*
10. To be asked if there is suspicion of pressure being exerted—Is your fiancée pregnant? (cc. 1057; 1103).....  Yes\*  No
11. Are you placing any conditions on (c. 1102) or have you any serious doubts about this marriage?.....  Yes\*  No
12. Does your fiancée, as far as you know, agree to your answers?.....  Yes  No\*
13. 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.)
14. For a groom under age 18, do your parents consent to this marriage? (cc. 1071, §1, 6°; 1072).....  Yes  No\*
15. 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\*  
 (cc. 1071,§1, 3°; 1136; 1689) If no or there is some question about compliance, contact the Tribunal/Chancery.

\*Explain below any response that included an asterisk (\*). For #9a-f and #11, an asterisked response prevents a couple from marrying. For #4-6, see impediments on page 5. Contact the Tribunal/Chancery. Other comments may be added below or on additional paper.

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

Signature of Groom

Place signed

Date signed

Signature  Priest or  Deacon or  Designated Lay Pastoral Assistant → → → Type/print name

### PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S) of GROOM

- ❖ If you are presently in a non-Catholic union and seeking to be married in the Catholic Church (convalidation), is your consent to this convalidation an act of the will by which you intend to enter into a valid Catholic marriage? (c. 1101, §1).....  Yes  No\*
  - A Catholic who exchanges marital vows in any non-Catholic ceremony without a dispensation from canonical form is not married validly in the eyes of the Catholic Church and is not able to receive the Sacraments licitly.
  - The Church is not ‘blessing’ this union. A valid marriage begins with the Catholic marriage ceremony.

Date of present non-Catholic union: \_\_\_\_\_ Attach a copy of that civil marriage license.

- ❖ How many times were you married before and it ended in divorce, civil annulment or death of the previous spouse? \_\_\_\_\_  
 List name(s) of previous spouse(s); name of church(s) or place(s) of marriage ceremony—city/state; title of officiant(s); date(s).

→ Explain how the groom is free to marry in the Catholic Church. (Without a death certificate and/or decree of nullity/dissolution issued only by the Catholic Church, one cannot marry in the Catholic Church.)

- Former spouse is deceased. Attach a copy of the death certificate.
- For every failed marriage: Attach a decree of nullity for:  Formal Case;  Prior Bond;  Lack of Canonical Form or  Other.  
 OR attach a decree of dissolution for:  Pauline Privilege;  Privilege of the Faith or  Rátum et non consummátum.

Name of (arch)diocese that issued the decree: \_\_\_\_\_

Protocol number and date of the Catholic decree: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** No provisional date for a marriage ceremony may be set until the final Decree(s) of Nullity/Dissolution is obtained. Indicate how compliance with any Tribunal stipulations occurred prior to any marriage ceremony (c. 1684).

Type or print clearly.

**BRIDE**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Include maiden name

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (with Apartment/Unit #) County City/State/Zip Code

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

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Rite: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include mother's maiden name.)

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

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church City/State

- + If not baptized, secure a *dispensation* from disparity of worship/cult (c. 1086, §2).
- + If baptized non-Catholic, secure a *permission* for a Catholic to marry a baptized non-Catholic (c. 1124).
- Secure: recent Catholic baptismal certificate or proof of baptism for baptized non-Catholic and two Affidavits of Freedom to Marry for a bride.

If Catholic:

→Date of Profession of Faith: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If applicable, secure recent POF certificate.) Church City/State

→Have you received First Eucharist?  Yes  No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church City/State

→Have you received Confirmation?  Yes  No (If no, encourage her to be confirmed *if possible* before marriage—c. 1065, §1.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church City/State

→Within what parish do you live? \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish City/State

1. Do you agree to answer all questions truthfully?.....  Yes  No\*
2. How long have you known each other? \_\_\_\_\_ Dated? \_\_\_\_\_ Engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you regularly participate in the practice of your faith?.....  Yes  No\*
4. Have you ever been married before (church; civil; common law; etc.)? c. 1085 (If yes, complete box on page 4.).....  Yes\*  No
5. Are you related to your fiancé by blood (c. 1091), marriage (c. 1092), or legal adoption (c. 1094)?.....  Yes\*  No
6. Are you or your fiancé bound by the impediments of age (c. 1083); sacred orders (c. 1087); public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute (c. 1088); abduction (c. 1089); crime (c. 1090); public propriety (c. 1093)?.....  Yes\*  No
7. Have you or your fiancée experienced or been treated for any mental or emotional, alcohol or drug-related difficulties? (cc. 1057; 1095).....  Yes\*  No  
If yes, are they resolved?.....  Yes  No\*
8. Have you signed a prenuptial agreement? (If yes, attach a copy of agreement. Contact the Tribunal/Chancery.).....  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 well being of each other and the marital partnership? (c. 1055, §1).....  Yes  No\*
  - b) To share in marital intercourse since marriage involves a sexual relationship? (c. 1061, §1; impotence c. 1084).....  Yes  No\*
  - c) To give your spouse the right to have children and see to their educational upbringing? (cc. 1055, §1; 1136).....  Yes  No\*
  - d) To make an unconditional, permanent commitment, lasting until the death of your spouse? (cc. 1056; 1102, §1)....  Yes  No\*
  - e) To be faithful to your spouse? (c. 1056).....  Yes  No\*
  - f) To give your consent freely and without any force or pressure from any person or circumstance? (cc.1057; 1103)..  Yes  No\*
10. To be asked if there is suspicion of pressure being exerted—Are you pregnant? (cc. 1057; 1103).....  Yes\*  No
11. Are you placing any conditions on (c. 1102) or have you any serious doubts about this marriage?.....  Yes\*  No
12. Does your fiancé, as far as you know, agree to your answers?.....  Yes  No\*

Type or print clearly.

13. 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.)
14. For a bride under age 18, do your parents consent to this marriage? (cc. 1071, §1, 6°; 1072)..... Yes  No\*
15. 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\*  
 (cc. 1071,§1, 3°; 1136; 1689) If no or there is some question about compliance, contact the Tribunal/Chancery.

\*Explain below any response that included an asterisk (\*). For #9a-f and #11, an asterisked response prevents a couple from marrying. For #4-6, see impediments on page 5. Contact the Tribunal/Chancery. Other comments may be added below or on additional paper.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place signed

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  Priest or  Deacon or  Designated Lay Pastoral Assistant → → → Type/print name

### PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S) of BRIDE

- ❖ If you are presently in a non-Catholic union and seeking to be married in the Catholic Church (convalidation), is your consent to this convalidation an act of the will by which you intend to enter into a valid Catholic marriage? (c. 1101, §1)..... Yes  No\*
  - A Catholic who exchanges marital vows in any non-Catholic ceremony without a dispensation from canonical form is not married validly in the eyes of the Catholic Church and is not able to receive the Sacraments licitly.
  - The Church is not ‘blessing’ this union. A valid marriage begins with the Catholic marriage ceremony.

Date of present non-Catholic union: \_\_\_\_\_ Attach a copy of that civil marriage license.

- ❖ How many times were you married before and it ended in divorce, civil annulment or death of the previous spouse? \_\_\_\_\_  
 List name(s) of previous spouse(s); name of church(s) or place(s) of marriage ceremony—city/state; title of officiant(s); date(s).

→ Explain how the bride is free to marry in the Catholic Church. (Without a death certificate and/or decree of nullity/dissolution issued only by the Catholic Church, one cannot marry in the Catholic Church.)

- Former spouse is deceased. Attach a copy of the death certificate.
- For every failed marriage: Attach a decree of nullity for:  Formal Case;  Prior Bond;  Lack of Canonical Form or  Other.  
 OR attach a decree of dissolution for:  Pauline Privilege;  Privilege of the Faith or  Rátum et non consummátum.

Name of (arch)diocese that issued the decree: \_\_\_\_\_

Protocol number and date of the Catholic decree: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** No provisional date for a marriage ceremony may be set until the final Decree(s) of Nullity/Dissolution is obtained. Indicate how compliance with any Tribunal stipulations occurred prior to any marriage ceremony (c. 1684).

+ 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°)
- 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°)

The above declaration and promise is to be completed and signed on the Archdiocesan Petition for a Canonical Dispensation or Permission for a Mixed Marriage.

**REFERENCE GUIDE: Always contact the Tribunal/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):**

**Age** (c. 1083)—Males must be 16 years old; females must be 14 years old. The day of birth is not computed in the age.

One completes the 16<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> year at the close of the day (midnight) on one's birthday (c. 203).

**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): Although a dispensation can be granted for the third degree (uncle/niece; aunt/nephew) and for the fourth degree (first cousins) in the collateral line to marry, they cannot secure legally a marriage license in Texas. But if a couple is in a civilly, recognized marital union and desire to marry (convalidation), a dispensation may be granted.

**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°).

**Other Important Information**

→If the groom and/or bride are a Catholic Rite other than Latin, contact the Tribunal/Chancery.

→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/deacon *normally* has the faculty to officiate at any marriage ceremony 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 or Profession of Faith (POF) 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) for a baptized non-Catholic.

→Secure four Witness Affidavits of Freedom to Marry—two witnesses for the groom and two witnesses 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 highly encouraged if possible, though not required (c. 1065, §1).
- Encouraged to receive Eucharist and Penance regularly (c. 1065, §2).
- A valid marriage is a sacrament when both spouses are validly baptized. A valid marriage between a baptized person and a non-baptized person (or between two non-baptized persons) is not sacrament. (c. 1055, §2)

→Types of marriage ceremonies (cc. 1119; 846, §1) from the Rite of Marriage (©1969):

- Rite of Celebrating Marriage during Mass #8, 19-38 (Normally for two Catholics; may occur for a Catholic and a *baptized*, non-Catholic, provided "except that, according to the general law, communion is not given to the non-Catholic." #8; cf. c.844, §§3-4).
- Rite of Celebrating Marriage Outside Mass #8, 39-54 (Normally for a Catholic and a *baptized* non-Catholic).
- Rite of Celebrating Marriage Between a Catholic and an *Unbaptized* Person #8, 55-66 (Only rite to be used for *unbaptized*).

→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 the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, this marriage file is to be sent to the Chancery.