Diocese of Dallas

TRIBUNAL
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IMPEDIMENTS IN THE 1983 CODE
(As of June 2, 2020)

NATURAL/DIVINE LAW IMPEDIMENTS
The impediments of natural/divine law never can be dispensed.

Impotence (c. 1084) - Incapacity to have sexual intercourse on the part of the man or the woman invalidates marriage. The impotence must exist prior to the marriage in question and not be curable by ordinary means. It can be absolute in regard to any marriage or relative to the marriage in question.

Previous bond of marriage, or *ligamen* (c. 1085) - A person bound by the bond of a previous valid marriage invalidly attempts marriage.

Consanguinity in the direct line and in the 2nd degree collateral (brothers and sisters) (c. 1091) - A marriage between those related by blood in any degree in the direct line that is, father-daughter, grandmother-grandson, or in the collateral line, that is, brother-sister is invalid.

ECCLESIASTICAL LAW IMPEDIMENTS
The impediments of ecclesiastical law can be dispensed.

Age (c. 1083) - A man cannot validly enter marriage before he has completed his 16th year of age or a woman before she has completed her 14th year of age. That is, the man must have celebrated his 16th birthday and the woman her 14th birthday.

Disparity of worship (c. 1086) - A marriage is invalid when one of the persons has been baptized into the Catholic Church or received into it and the other party never has been baptized.

Sacred Orders (c. 1087) - Those who have received sacred orders invalidly attempt marriage.

Perpetual Vow of Chastity in a Religious Institute (c. 1088) - Those who are bound by a public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute invalidly attempt marriage.

Abduction (c. 1089) - A marriage is invalid between a man and a woman if she has been abducted or at least detained in order to get her to marry. The impediment ceases if she fully chooses marriage after she has been separated and established in a safe place.

Crime (c. 1090) - A person who in order to enter marriage with another person has killed that other person's spouse or his/her own spouse or cooperated in such a murder invalidly attempts marriage.

Consanguinity (c. 1091) - Marriage is invalid between those related by blood up to the 4th degree inclusive in the collateral line; that is, first cousins.

Affinity (c. 1092) - Affinity in any of the direct lines invalidates marriage. Affinity arises from a Valid Marriage. It is a so-called "in law" relationship between one spouse and the blood relatives of the other. It prohibits marriage between those related by affinity in the direct line from marriage such as a man marrying his mother-in-law or daughter-in-law.

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) - Those who are legally related by reason of adoption cannot marry each other if their relationship is in the direct line or in the second degree of the collateral line, that is, mother-son, grandfather-granddaughter, brother-sister.

Dispensations from the impediments of Crime, Sacred Orders and Perpetual Vow of Chastity in a Religious Institute of Pontifical Right (nuns and brothers) always are reserved to the Holy See.

All other impediments can be dispensed by the Diocesan Bishop or his delegate. Questions concerning such dispensations should be directed to the Tribunal of the Diocese of Dallas.

DISPENSATIONS/PERMISSIONS IN MARRIAGES

All requests for permissions/dispensations for marriages occurring under the auspices of the Diocese of Dallas, either in the Diocese of Dallas or outside the Diocese of Dallas, are submitted to the Tribunal:

Diocese of Dallas, Tribunal, 3725 Blackburn St, PO Box 190507, Dallas TX 75219, (214) 379-2840, tribunal@cathdal.org.