

DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Preuptial Checklist



Prenuptial Checklist

(August 7, 2014)

FOR ALL MARRIAGES:

1. Fully completed current (May 2009) **Form V, "Prenuptial Questionnaire"**, including:
 - a) **Date** of proposed/upcoming marriage
 - b) Full contact information (full name, address, email, phone, fax) of **celebrant**
 - c) Full contact information (full name, address, email, phone fax) of **pastor** and **parish of church of marriage**
 - d) **Email** addresses for bride and groom, if possible
 - e) If there are any "*" answers, be sure to explain
2. Fully completed current (May 2009) **Form III A, "Petition for a Canonical Dispensation or Permission for a Mixed Marriage"** and/or **Form III B1, "Petition for a Dispensation from the Canonical Form in a Mixed Marriage."**
 - a) If the Catholic is marrying a non-Catholic, the cleric or lay minister must confirm **promises** made by Catholic party.
 - b) Requests for permissions/dispensations require **reasons** for the requests
3. Currently issued, within the last six months, original (not photocopy) of the Catholic party(ies) **baptismal certificate(s) with sacramental notations**
4. Certificate or letter stating the baptism of the non-Catholic party, if this can be obtained.
5. One fully completed current (May 2009) **Form II, "Witness Affidavit of Freedom to Marry"** for the **bride** and **one for the groom**. The Affidavit is to be completed by a parent or other older relative who has known the party at least since early adolescence.
6. Certificate or explanation of **marriage preparation**, which must be a Diocesan-approved program.
7. For a **convalidation**, a copy of the **civil marriage certificate** or **informal marriage registration certificate**
8. If **not a convalidation**, be sure the **civil marriage license is obtained at least 72 hours** before the ceremony and has not expired. (Marriage licenses expire after 90 days.) It is advisable to examine the license one week before the ceremony.

FOR MARRIAGES INSIDE THE DIOCESE OF DALLAS:

1. The original Form III and copies of all other prenuptial papers (Forms V and II) excluding FOCCUS results are to be sent to the Dallas Tribunal at least **30 days before** the wedding. In addition, these copies may be two-sided. Once the *nihil obstat* and necessary permissions/dispensations are granted, the Tribunal will return the original Form III and the *nihil obstat* as these will be kept with the complete, original prenuptial file in the parish.
2. **Exception:** It still is not necessary to forward to the Dallas Tribunal papers for marriages occurring inside the Diocese of Dallas involving:
 - Two baptized Latin Catholics, and
 - Both of whom are domiciled in the Diocese of Dallas, and
 - The marriage will be celebrated in the Diocese of Dallas, and
 - Neither party has ever been married to anyone elsePrenuptial papers for all other couples are to be forwarded to the Diocese of Dallas.

FOR MARRIAGES OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE OF DALLAS:

1. All original prenuptial papers, excluding FOCCUS results, for a marriage to be celebrated **within the USA (but outside the Diocese of Dallas)** are to arrive in the Tribunal at least **60 days** before the scheduled wedding.
2. All original prenuptial papers, excluding FOCCUS results, for a marriage to be celebrated **outside the USA** are to arrive in the Tribunal at least **90 days** before the scheduled wedding. Once the *nihil obstat* and the necessary permissions/dispensations are granted, the Catholic bride/groom will be notified to arrange for pick up from the Tribunal of the papers in order to hand-carry or FEDEX.
3. Be sure to indicate the Diocese in which the marriage will be celebrated so that the Tribunal can contact the Diocese for further direction as to the transmission of the prenuptial papers.

FOR MARRIAGES TO BE CELEBRATED BY VISITING CLERICS

Complete contact information (full name, address, email, fax, telephone) of **the celebrant**. Visiting cleric must provide current (within 6 weeks) **letter of good standing** from his Bishop or religious superior.