

DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Restriction of Civil Capacity of Catholic Clergy

in Officiating Marriages



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in Officiating Marriages**

(Revised August 14, 2014)

Clergy may not celebrate marriages in only their civil capacity.

The Diocese of Dallas does not give permission for any clergy, deacon or priest, to celebrate a marriage only in his civil capacity. Any marriage celebrated in the Diocese of Dallas, or involving clergy of the Diocese of Dallas, **MUST** be under the auspices of the Catholic Church.

The conduct of a ceremony outside this diocesan parameter is unauthorized. Clergy who perform marriage ceremonies in their civil capacity only are in violation of particular Church law and may be subject to ecclesiastical sanction.

Thus, particular law for the Diocese of Dallas does not permit any Catholic priest or deacon to celebrate any marriage in only his “civil capacity.”

Any time a Catholic priest or deacon is approached by someone wanting him to celebrate a marriage in only his civil capacity, he is to contact the Tribunal for direction. Even if he is approached by a Catholic wanting him to celebrate a marriage to “correct” a civil action, such as a civil divorce, he is to contact the Tribunal for direction.