

MARRIAGE PAPERS

May I respectfully remind you that completed paperwork needs to be submitted to the Chancery for:

- Marriages taking place outside of your own parish;
- Marriages between a Catholic and an un-baptised person;
- Marriages being celebrated in a non-Catholic church;
- Marriages in which either party has been previously married;
- Applications for the convalidation of a civil marriage;
- Applications for the sanation of a civil marriage.

Please note that permission for a 'Mixed Marriage' (ie a marriage between a Catholic and a validly baptized non-Catholic) may be granted by parish priests, priests *in solidum*, and parochial administrators.

In addition to the 'Information for Marriage' form (which should be a new copy, rather than a photocopy of a photocopy), please include the following documents when submitting paperwork to the Chancery:

For a Catholic party:

- A copy of the baptism certificate, dated within six months from the proposed date of the marriage. This should also indicate whether or not the entry in the baptism register contains any reference to marriage;
- A copy of the confirmation certificate (*if applicable*);
- A copy of the reception certificate (*if applicable*);
- A copy of the 'Declaration of Freedom' (*which may be downloaded from the diocesan website by going to dabnet.org, then 'Resources', then 'Chancery'). Please note that this declaration may be witnessed by a priest or deacon. It is not necessary for the form to be taken to a solicitor or commissioner for oaths.

Please note that it is no longer necessary to acquire additional letters of freedom from parishes in which the Catholic has previously lived.

For a non-Catholic party:

- A copy of the baptism certificate (*if applicable*);
- A copy of the 'Declaration of Freedom' (*see the note above). Please note that this declaration may be witnessed by a priest or deacon. It is not necessary for the form to be taken to a solicitor or commissioner for oaths.
- A copy of the 'Letter of Freedom' (*see the note above) from a parent or relative.

For all parties, in addition to the above:

- A copy of the Registrar's 'blue certificate' (*unless the marriage is taking place overseas*);
- Evidence of attendance at some form of marriage preparation;
- Documents relating to previous marriages (*if applicable*) – eg marriage certificates, civil divorce papers, canonical declarations of freedom, death certificates etc

Please retain photocopies of everything sent to the Chancery with regard to marriage, as a safeguard against paperwork being lost in the post. Remember, too, the requirement of Canon 1122 to enter the fact of the marriage in the baptism register of the Catholic spouse(s) or to send a notification of the marriage as soon as possible to the parish priest of the place of baptism.

With many thanks.

Fr Jonathan Martin, VG

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