

**ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS**  
Application for  
**DISPENSATION FROM THE OBSERVANCE  
OF THE CANONICAL FORM OF MARRIAGE**

Application to be mailed to:

**THE CHANCERY OFFICE**  
P. O. Box 1410 - Room 319  
1400 North Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. The Revised Code of Canon Law (Canons 1127, §2 and 1129) gives to the Archbishop ordinary jurisdiction to dispense a Catholic from the observance of the Canonical Form, otherwise required for the validity of marriage by Canon 1108. This dispensation cannot be granted except in the case of marriage from which either dispensation from Disparity of Worship or permission (cf. no. 9 of the Instructions concerning Matrimonial Impediments) is both necessary and properly sought.
2. This dispensation may be sought only if there are serious difficulties in observing the Canonical Form. It is impossible to give an exhaustive list of reasons that justify petition for this dispensation, but the following are samples of such reasons: “to achieve family harmony,” “to avoid family alienation,” “to obtain parental agreement to an otherwise prudent marriage,” “to recognize the significant claims of relationship or close friendship with a clergyman of another denomination,” “to permit marriage in a Church that has particular importance to the non-Catholic, particularly when the non-Catholic is a woman.”
3. Ordinarily dispensation from the observance of the Form is granted in view of a proposed celebration of marriage in a religious context, but in some exceptional circumstances it may be sought to permit a civil marriage ceremony. In any case some public celebration, one recognized under the civil law, is necessary for the validity of the marriage.
4. There are two points in which the law of the Revised Code differs from the norms established on November 16, 1970 by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. One is that the dispensation from the Form can be granted only by the Bishop of the place where the Catholic party resides (cf. no. 5 of the Instructions concerning Matrimonial Impediments). The other is the change in wording which states that, if the marriage is to take place in a Diocese other than that of the Bishop who grants the dispensation, the bishop of the Diocese of the ceremony must be consulted by the dispensing Bishop.

5. When dispensation is granted for a marriage to take place in a religious ceremony other than a Catholic ceremony, there is no reason why the parish priest (or other priest for familial or similar reasons) may not participate in the ceremony saying an appropriate prayer, giving a reading from Scripture, saying other appropriate words, or doing something similar. Canon 1127, §3, however, directs that it is forbidden to have a religious celebration in which a Catholic and a non-Catholic minister, assisting together but following their respective rituals, ask for the consent of both parties.
6. Canon 1121, §3 provides the following with regard to the keeping of records of such marriages:
  1. The Ordinary who has granted the dispensation must see to it that the marriage is properly recorded with appropriate adaptations in the Marriage Register of the Parish of the Catholic party. The following documents should also be placed in the Parish file of pre-nuptial documents:
    - a. The actual pre-nuptial documents
    - b. Baptismal records(s) recently issued
    - c. The rescript of dispensation
    - d. Any other pertinent documents.
  2. The Ordinary must also see to the recording of the marriage at the Chancery.
  3. The Catholic spouse has the obligation of informing the Ordinary and the proper Parish Priest of the fact and date of the marriage.
  4. The proper Parish Priest has the obligation of noting the fact and date of the marriage on the Baptismal record of the Catholic party or of sending the information to the parish of Baptism of the Catholic party.
7. To facilitate the fulfillment of the obligation of the Catholic party to notify the Ordinary of the marriage, so that it can be recorded in the Chancery records, you are requested to provide the information indicated on the lower section of the rescript of dispensation form the Form and return it to the Chancery Office.
8. If a situation arises in which some doubt exists as to which Parish is the proper one for the recording of the marriage, please consult the Chancery Office. If you foresee this doubt when you apply for the dispensation from the Canonical Form, please note the problem at the time of application.

Rev. 3/07

**Archdiocese of Indianapolis**

**APPLICATION TO THE  
ARCHBISHOP OF INDIANAPOLIS  
FOR A DISPENSATION FROM  
CANONICAL FORM**

For Chancery Use

Chancery No. _____
MR or DC No. _____
Granted by: _____
Date _____ 20____

\_\_\_\_\_, a Catholic  
(Print or type name)

of \_\_\_\_\_ Parish, \_\_\_\_\_, IN,  
wishing to marry \_\_\_\_\_,  
requests a dispensation from the observance of the Canonical Form of marriage.

The just pastoral reason (cf. front cover of booklet) for seeking this dispensation is:

- to achieve family harmony
- to avoid family alienation
- to obtain parental agreement to an otherwise prudent marriage
- to recognize the significant claims of relationship or close friendship with a clergyman of another denomination
- to permit marriage in a Church that has particular importance to the non-Catholic, particularly when the non-Catholic is a woman.
- other \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Officiant \_\_\_\_\_

Date of application \_\_\_\_\_  
(Pastor, Associate Pastor)

\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ Church of \_\_\_\_\_, IN

**Note: If an application for dispensation from the impediment of Disparity of Worship or for permission for a marriage of Mixed Religion is not enclosed, please explain on reverse side.**

Rev. 3/07