

# PRENUPTIAL INVESTIGATION FOR CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Parish Site of Prenuptial Investigation \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME OF PARISH) (CITY/TOWN)

## *Part I* THE INITIAL MEETING WITH THE COUPLE

The purpose of this initial meeting of the pastoral minister with every couple is to establish an atmosphere of welcome, to clarify the basics of the marriage preparation process and to verify their freedom to marry.

*Groom*

*Bride*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
CURRENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME AND/OR CELL PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_  
CURRENT PARISH \_\_\_\_\_  
OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_  
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
AGE\* \_\_\_\_\_

NONE or  \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF PRIOR MARRIAGES\*\*  NONE or  \_\_\_\_\_

\* If a party is under age 18, please complete form A-2.

\*\* Any previous marriage(s) must have ended either by death or by a Catholic decree of annulment or dissolution before any date may be reserved with the Catholic Church for this couple's proposed marriage (please complete form A-3). If a couple has already entered a civil marriage with one another, please complete form A-4.

PROPOSED DATE FOR THE MARRIAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ HOUR: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSED CHURCH/SITE FOR THE MARRIAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE OF THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PASTORAL MINISTER PREPARING COUPLE: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME	MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
FATHER'S RELIGION	MOTHER'S RELIGION
IF CATHOLIC, FATHER'S RITE	IF CATHOLIC, MOTHER'S RITE

1. Were you baptized? (*Complete Part III as available.*)  yes  no  
 If yes, obtain and submit your baptismal certificate.  
(A Catholic must obtain a new certificate, one issued in the past 6 months.)  
 If not baptized a Catholic, two affidavits of freedom are needed (*form A-1*).
2. Are you related to the bride by blood (kinship)?  yes\*  no
3. Are you related to the bride as an in-law to her?  yes\*  no
4. Are you related to the bride by adoption?  yes\*  no
5. Were you ever ordained a deacon or a priest?  yes\*  no
6. Did you make a profession in a religious order?  yes\*  no
7. Have your parents expressed opposition to this wedding?  yes  no
8. Do you want to enter a truly Christian marriage: one that is permanent, exclusive and open to children?  yes  no

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME	MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
FATHER'S RELIGION	MOTHER'S RELIGION
IF CATHOLIC, FATHER'S RITE	IF CATHOLIC, MOTHER'S RITE

9. Were you baptized? (*Complete Part III as available.*)  yes  no  
 If yes, obtain and submit your baptismal certificate.  
(A Catholic must obtain a new certificate, one issued in the past 6 months.)  
 If not baptized a Catholic, two affidavits of freedom are needed (*form A-1*).
10. Are you related to the groom by blood (kinship)?  yes\*  no
11. Are you related to the groom as an in-law to him?  yes\*  no
12. Are you related to the groom by adoption?  yes\*  no
13. Did you make a profession in a religious order?  yes\*  no
14. Have your parents expressed opposition to this wedding?  yes  no
15. Do you want to enter a truly Christian marriage: one that is permanent, exclusive and open to children?  yes  no

\* If affirmative, clarify the existence of any possible impediment(s) to the marriage.

Normally, FOCCUS, PREPARE or some premarital inventory is to be taken prior to the couple's participation in an approved marriage preparation program. A pastoral minister may, if necessary, offer private instructional sessions to the couple. The groom and bride acknowledge, by their signatures, the truthfulness of their answers and that the marriage preparation process has been clearly explained to them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF THE GROOM

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF THE BRIDE

## Part II

(IN FOLLOW UP TO THE INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS)

### The Groom:

This second part of the Prenuptial Investigation is done after the couple has participated in an approved marriage preparation program or has had at least a thorough marital instruction by the pastoral minister. The groom must be interviewed alone. The pastoral minister proposes the questions and records the response. The groom is to review the answers before signing his name.

1. Do you promise to answer truthfully?  yes  no
2. Did you complete FOCCUS, PREPARE, a similar premarital inventory?  yes  no
3. Are you free to marry?  yes  no
4. Is there any person or circumstance forcing you to marry?  yes\*  no
5. Is any person or circumstance forcing the bride to marry?  yes\*  no  
\* If so, indicate the source of pressure: \_\_\_\_\_
6. How long have you been dating each other? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When did you become formally engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are you aware of any physical or psychological difficulty that might prevent the proper fulfillment of your marriage duties?  yes\*  no  
\* If so, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you understand that if you have needed treatment for a drug, alcohol, mental, emotional or behavioral problem that such matters should be discussed by you with the bride?  yes  no
10. Are you concealing from the bride any important information about yourself, either from the past or present, that might affect the bride's willingness to marry you if she knew it?  yes\*  no  
\* If so, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you understand the nature and obligations of marriage?  yes  no
12. Do you freely and without any pressure, direct or indirect, agree
  - a. to enter this marriage for life, that is, until natural death?  yes  no\*
  - b. to give the bride the right to have children if God grants such?  yes  no\*
  - c. to accept the obligation to be exclusively faithful to the bride?  yes  no\*
  - d. to consent to this marriage without conditions, restrictions or reservations of any kind?  yes  no\*\* If no to any of the above (12 a-d), please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Do you judge yourself capable of fulfilling these commitments?  yes  no
14. Do you believe that the bride is making the same commitments?  yes  no
15. Would you accept children lovingly from God and raise them well?  
Would you raise them as practicing Catholics active in Church?  yes  no
16. If you had a former marriage or relationship, have you properly fulfilled your obligations toward that woman?  N/A  yes  no
17. If you have children from any previous relationship, have you properly fulfilled your obligations toward those children?  N/A  yes  no

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF THE GROOM

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF THE PASTORAL MINISTER

PARISH SEAL

# Part II

(IN FOLLOW UP TO THE INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS)

## The Bride:

This second part of the Prenuptial Investigation is done after the couple has participated in an approved marriage preparation program or has had at least a thorough marital instruction by the pastoral minister. The bride must be interviewed alone. The pastoral minister proposes the questions and records the response. The bride is to review the answers before signing her name.

1. Do you promise to answer truthfully?  yes  no
2. Did you complete FOCCUS, PREPARE, a similar premarital inventory?  yes  no
3. Are you free to marry?  yes  no
4. Is there any person or circumstance forcing you to marry?  yes\*  no
5. Is any person or circumstance forcing the groom to marry?  yes\*  no  
\* If so, indicate the source of pressure: \_\_\_\_\_
6. How long have you been dating each other? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When did you become formally engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are you aware of any physical or psychological difficulty that might prevent the proper fulfillment of your marriage duties?  yes\*  no  
\* If so, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you understand that if you have needed treatment for a drug, alcohol, mental, emotional or behavioral problem that such matters should be discussed by you with the groom?  yes  no
10. Are you concealing from the groom any important information about yourself, either from the past or present, that might affect the groom's willingness to marry you if he knew it?  yes\*  no  
\* If so, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you understand the nature and obligations of marriage?  yes  no
12. Do you freely and without any pressure, direct or indirect, agree
  - a. to enter this marriage for life, that is, until natural death?  yes  no\*
  - b. to give the groom the right to have children if God grants such?  yes  no\*
  - c. to accept the obligation to be exclusively faithful to the groom?  yes  no\*
  - d. to consent to this marriage without conditions, restrictions or reservations of any kind?  yes  no\*\* If no to any of the above (12 a-d), please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Do you judge yourself capable of fulfilling these commitments?  yes  no
14. Do you believe that the groom is making the same commitments?  yes  no
15. Would you accept children lovingly from God and raise them well?  
Would you raise them as practicing Catholics active in Church?  yes  no
16. If you had a former marriage or relationship, have you properly fulfilled your obligations toward that man?  N/A  yes  no
17. If you have children from any previous relationship, have you properly fulfilled your obligations toward those children?  N/A  yes  no

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF THE BRIDE

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF THE PASTORAL MINISTER

PARISH SEAL

Part III

OTHER INFORMATION

The Pastoral Minister completes the items below so all is ready for the marriage.

1. Personal and Religious Data about the Couple

Groom

Bride

PLACE OF BIRTH

DATE OF BIRTH

CHURCH OF BAPTISM

CITY, STATE OF BAPTISM

not baptized DATE OF BAPTISM not baptized

If a Certificate of Baptism is impossible to obtain, two affidavits (form B-1 or B-2) are included.

CHURCH OF CONFIRMATION

PLACE OF CONFIRMATION

not confirmed DATE OF CONFIRMATION not confirmed

FREEDOM TO MARRY VERIFIED BY:

Catholic Baptismal Record

Include Two (2) Affidavits (form A-1)

2. Ecclesiastical Dispensations and/or Permissions Received

a. Type: Date:

Protocol Number: (Arch)Diocese:

b. Type: Date:

Protocol Number: (Arch)Diocese:

3. The Source of Church Delegation to Officiate at this Marriage

- The Officiant by assignment or faculty is able to officiate at marriage here in this parish.
The undersigned Catholic cleric, who enjoys the faculty to officiate at marriages in the territory of parish, hereby delegates to witness this marriage in this parish.
Otherwise, the attached statement verifies the delegation to witness this marriage.

SIGNATURE OF DELEGATING CATHOLIC CLERIC

DATE OF DELEGATION

Deacons must not witness a marriage involving a member of the Eastern Churches.

4. Observations and Declaration of the Pastoral Minister

I have personally prepared this couple for marriage. I am morally certain of their freedom to marry. I am convinced that they are sincere in their stated intentions for marriage. Further I make the following observations (if any):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF THE PASTORAL MINISTER      DATE      ECCLESIASTICAL POSITION

PARISH SEAL

5. The Canonical and Civil Witnesses

NAME OF THE OFFICIANT: \_\_\_\_\_

*Best Man*

*Maid/Matron Of Honor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

6. The Civil Marriage License

- The civil (re)marriage license was presented to the pastoral minister by the couple.  
 The civil (re)marriage license was completed, signed by the officiant and two witnesses and returned to the municipality where the marriage was celebrated.

7. Canonical Record of the Marriage

Parish at which the marriage record is recorded and filed: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish file number of the marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Notifications to church(es) of Baptism and couple's future parish

*Groom*  Notification of this Marriage was sent to the church(es) of Baptism (form C-3)  *Bride*

After marriage, this couple will reside at \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, located in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

- Notification has been sent to the future pastor of this couple about their recent marriage at this church so that he may be aware of the address to which the couple will be moving and their future parish may extend a welcome to them (forms C-1 and C-2).