

ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

Petition for Dispensation from Canonical Form

_____ Date

_____ Church

_____ Address

_____ Name of Catholic Party

of _____ Address

a member of _____ Parish

wishing to marry _____ Name of non-Catholic Party

a _____ baptized non-Catholic, unbaptized person

of _____ Address

Requests a dispensation from the canonical form of marriage

The canonical reasons are:

- _____ To achieve family harmony
- _____ To avoid family alienation
- _____ To obtain parental agreement to the marriage
- _____ To recognize friendship or relationship with a minister
- _____ To permit the marriage in a church of special importance to the non-Catholic
- _____ Other (specify)

Date of application _____ Date of wedding _____

Place of wedding _____

Name and title of the person who will officiate at the marriage: _____

Signature of Priest or Deacon Applying

Dispensation granted on _____ Date

by _____
Chancellor

Dispensation from Canonical Form

The following norms regarding dispensations from canonical form are based upon the Proprio, *Matrimonia Mixta* (March 31, 1970), the Document of Implementation by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (November 16, 1970), and the revised Code of Canon Law (canons 1121 and 1127).

1. Requirements for mixed marriages are always to be observed; i.e. prenuptial investigations, the promise required of the Catholic party and the knowledge of this obligation conveyed to the non-Catholic, dispensation(s), etc.
2. The minister who officiates at the marriage has the responsibility of sending the required notice that the wedding has taken place to the civil authorities.
3. The priest or deacon who prepares a couple for marriage is responsible for requesting the dispensation from canonical form. This request must be sent to the Ordinary of the Catholic party and that Ordinary is to grant the dispensation regardless of where the marriage is to take place.
4. After the dispensation from canonical form is granted and upon verification that the wedding has taken place, the priest or deacon who submitted the request for this dispensation must see to it that (a) the record and particulars are entered in the marriage register of the parish from which the application for dispensation was made, and (b) that notice of this marriage and the particulars are sent to the parish of baptism of the Catholic party.
5. It is not permitted to have two religious celebrations of the same marriage. Nor is it permitted to have a single service in which both the Catholic marriage ritual and a non-Catholic marriage ritual are celebrated jointly or successively. Nor may both the Catholic minister and the non-Catholic minister ask for and receive the consent of the parties. When a dispensation from canonical form is granted, the non-Catholic minister uses his/her form and asks for and receives the consent of both parties.
6. It is desirable for a Catholic priest or deacon to be present for the marriage ceremony when a dispensation from canonical form has been granted. When this is possible and agreed upon by the appropriate authority of the other church, the priest or deacon may assist by offering additional prayers, blessings, or words of greeting and exhortation. If the marriage service is not part of the Lord's Supper or the principal liturgical service of the Word, the priest or deacon, if invited, may also read a lesson and/or preach.