Blue Form Instructions

Purpose of the Blue Form

The Blue Form attests that, insofar as the law applicable in the Archdiocese of San Francisco is concerned, neither a canonical impediment nor a prohibition prevents the valid and licit celebration of the proposed marriage outside the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese, subject to any particular requirements applicable by reason of the place of celebration or another competent jurisdiction.

Signature of the Pastor or Parish Priest Administrator

In conformity with canon 1115, page 2 of the Blue Form requires the signature of the Pastor or Parish Priest Administrator. If the Pastor or Parish Priest Administrator is unavailable to sign the Blue Form because of travel, hospitalization, or another reasonable cause, a brief note explaining the circumstances should accompany the packet. In such a case, in conformity with canon 549, the Parochial Vicar who is senior by appointment may grant the permission and sign the Blue Form.

Submission Requirements

The Blue Form must be submitted to the *Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of San Francisco*, together with all supporting documents required by the form.

Completed Blue Form packets must be submitted:

- At least four (4) weeks before the wedding date if the marriage will be celebrated in the United States.
- At least eight (8) weeks before the wedding date if the marriage will be celebrated abroad.

Effective October 1, 2026, a $50 processing fee is required for each Blue Form packet. The fee may be paid in advance online through the Tribunal website or, upon submission of the packet, by enclosing a check payable to *The Archdiocese of San Francisco*.

Important Notes Regarding Other Dioceses

Although the Blue Form attests that, insofar as the law applicable in the Archdiocese of San Francisco is concerned, neither a canonical impediment nor a prohibition prevents the valid and licit celebration of the proposed marriage outside the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese, the particular law and local policies of the diocese where the marriage will be celebrated may impose additional requirements. These requirements vary significantly throughout the world.

For this reason, the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of San Francisco strongly advises couples intending to marry outside the Archdiocese to contact, with the help of the parish staff supporting them, the diocese where the marriage will take place in order to verify all applicable local requirements.

Please note the following examples:

1. The Diocese of Sacramento does not accept photocopied documents, and Natural Family Planning (NFP) instruction is required for all couples.
2. The Dioceses of Monterey and Santa Rosa do not accept photocopies; all documents must be originals.
3. The Diocese of Honolulu does not accept photocopied documents. If any document is missing or not original, the entire Blue Form packet will be returned by mail.
4. In France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Turkey, and Mexico, couples must first contract a civil marriage before celebrating a Catholic wedding.
5. Many dioceses in Mexico require that Catholic parties receive the Sacrament of Confirmation before contracting marriage.
6. In certain dioceses with significant tourism in Mexico or Colombia, couples from abroad must present a copy of their valid passports.

Documents General Required for the Parties Contracting Marriage

1. **Catholic baptismal certificates:** A baptismal certificate issued no more than six months before the date of the Catholic party's personal statement under oath (Form A), and containing all sacramental notations, must be submitted.

2. **Non-Catholic baptismal certificate:** A baptismal certificate, if available, must be submitted for each baptized non-Catholic party.

3. **Personal statements:** One personal statement under oath (Form A) must be completed for each party and personally signed by that party.

4. **Witness testimony:** Two witnesses must provide testimony under oath (two Forms B) for each party.

5. **Dispensations and permissions:** Any dispensation or permission granted to a Catholic party must be submitted in the original.

6. **Existing civil marriage between the parties:** If the bride and groom are already married to each other according to civil law, an original marriage license or certificate signed by the officiant must be submitted.

Documents Required in Particular Cases:

7. **Previous marriage declared null:** If either party previously attempted marriage with another person and that marriage was subsequently declared null by the competent ecclesiastical authority, a letter from that authority certifying the execution of the sentence must be submitted.

8. ***Vetitum*:** If a *vetitum* prohibiting the celebration of a new marriage was imposed in connection with the above declaration of nullity, the decree lifting the *vetitum* must also be submitted.

9. **Previous marriage dissolved:** If either party previously contracted marriage with another person and the competent ecclesiastical authority was able to dissolve that marriage because at least one of the parties was never baptized or because the marriage was never consummated after the baptism of both, the decree of dissolution must be submitted.

10. **Previous attempted marriage absolutely lacking canonical form:** If a Catholic bound to observe canonical form attempted marriage with someone other than the current intended spouse without observing canonical form, the decree establishing that the attempted marriage is not canonically binding must be submitted.

11. **Other previous civil marriages:** If either party previously celebrated a civil marriage with someone other than the current intended spouse, the following must be submitted: a copy of the marriage license or certificate signed by the officiant; a copy of the civil decree of dissolution; and the decree or sentence of the competent ecclesiastical authority establishing that the party is now free to marry the current intended spouse.

12. **Widow or widower:** If either party was previously married according to civil law, the previous spouse is deceased, and the marriage was never declared not canonically binding or null, or dissolved by the competent ecclesiastical authority, a death certificate for the previous spouse must be submitted.

Contact Information

Questions regarding the Blue Form or its submission requirements may be directed to the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.