

1. The goal of the Prenuptial inquiry is to collect data for an upcoming marriage : identity of the parties, their civil and religious freedom to marry, their degree of preparation for a Christian marriage, their intention as to the essential elements and properties of matrimonial commitment. Normally, this inquiry is conducted separately. For more information, please consult the *Canonical and Pastoral Guide for Parishes*.
2. The first meeting with the future spouses is for the person conducting the inquiry an occasion to ask certain questions about their age, religion, domicile and freedom from previous bond if applicable. The Prenuptial inquiry as such will take place later when the preparation of the couple has been undertaken.
3. A Catholic party will prove his/her Baptism only with a certificate or an extract :
 - Issued by a parish and not the civil entity,
 - Not older than 6 months,
 - Clearly establishing the existence or absence of a previous marriage, or holy orders, or vow.

It is now necessary to request a civil certificate of birth. (*e.i. : social insurance number*)

4. In the case of a Catholic party, a certificate or an extract fulfilling the conditions mentioned in paragraph 3 will be sufficient to prove his/her freedom to marry. For a non-Catholic, a civil document, such as a passport or a family document, can be used to establish his/her freedom to marry. In case of doubt or if it is impossible to provide these documents, two witnesses may give a sworn statement to the effect that the party is free to marry (Form 2) or provide a solemn declaration before a civil officer.
5. It may become necessary to verify if more than one marriage took place before the upcoming one. In this case, names of spouses, dates and places of celebration must be given.
6. It is very important to establish that no restrictive clause is attached to the decision of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal. In the case of a *monitum* or a *vetitum*, the Diocesan Chancery Office must be consulted. The Decree of Freedom must also be kept in file.
7. The definitive judgement of divorce or the decree of dissolution of the civil union must be kept in the marriage file.
8. The person conducting the Prenuptial Inquiry should enquire about the preparation of the couple for their marriage, their understanding of married life as taught by the Church and their attitude toward Christian faith. If need be, he/she could help them perfect their knowledge and improve their approach.
9. The family tree allows to discover any blood relationships between the parties. Civil and religious law prohibit marriage between persons who are related :
 - In the direct line of consanguinity or adoption;
 - In the collateral line, in the second degree as brother and sister, or half-brother and half-sister;
 - In the collateral line, in the second degree by adoption, that is brother and sister.

10. L'attitude à tenir, les procédures à suivre et la liturgie à célébrer dans ces cas sont indiquées dans le GUIDE, p. 112 et suiv.
11. Dispense n'est pas donnée de l'empêchement d'âge (can. 1083 §1 : 16 et 14 ans). Conformément au can. 1083 §2, l'âge minimum pour la célébration licite du mariage au Canada est de 18 ans (C.E.C.C. décret no 12).
12. Le mariage de religion mixte ne requiert pas de dispense mais une permission expresse de l'autorité compétente, (voir GUIDE, p. 111).
13. La législation civile exige le consentement écrit du père, de la mère ou du tuteur pour autoriser une personne de moins de 18 ans à se marier (voir GUIDE, p. 92)
14. La dispense de forme canonique peut être donnée pour le bien des époux ou la paix familiale, etc. (voir GUIDE, p. 107 et suiv.)
15. Il est proposé deux formules pour la déclaration d'intention; l'une et l'autre se veulent une occasion d'approfondissement de l'engagement des fiancés. Le prêtre pourra utiliser l'une ou l'autre selon ce qui lui semblera le plus indiqué.