








Checklist: Preparation for Catholic Marriage

The Most Important Points to Check ✓

-  Responsibility of the minister is given
- Particulars of the couple are fully charged (page 1 above, section A)
-  Baptism(s) is / are proved through documents or oath (number 3 b)
-  Single status for each of the partners is proved through documents or personal oath (number 7)
- Impediments to marriage, prohibitions from marriage, and clear intention to marry, are proved (number 11, 13, 14-17)
⇒ questions 11 and 13: **without entry (otherwise request for dispensation has to be made)**; questions 14-17: **all affirmative**
-  Questions to the Catholic partner in case of marriage with a partner of a different religion / confession or with a partner who has distanced himself / herself from faith are **both affirmative** (number 18)
- Dispensation from banns or / and permission for inter-confessional marriage are granted only under number 24 a and b, when the marriage preparation protocol not for any other reason has to be submitted to the Diocesan office (otherwise apply in number 23 a and e)
- All necessary dispensations / marriage permissions / *Nihil obstat* are applied for (section C)
-  In case of request for dispensation a legitimate reason is named (number 23 b, d, f)
-  In case a dispensation from a canonical form of marriage is requested: the place in which the marriage is to be substantiated is to be indicated (possibly with a zip code) (number 23 f)
-  Authority to officiate is given (*ex officio* or delegation) (number 27)
- Marriage license is granted (number 28)
- In case the marriage is to take place out of Germany, *Litterae dimissoriae* carefully filled-in and attached
- All documents are signed
- All original documents or certified copies are attached

Have you checked all the points? If not, then more has to be done, or the marriage cannot take place under circumstances!

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When you have to submit the marriage preparation protocol to the Diocesan office

Ask yourself before every marriage:		
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Is there a difference in religion between both partners? (numbers 3 a, b, 11, 23 b)	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Is it a marriage between partners of different confessions whereby one of the partners is Orthodox, or of a different rite? (numbers 3 a, b, 12, 23 e, h)	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Should a canonical dispensation be administered in case of marriage between partners of different confessions or religions? (paragraph 23 f)	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Has one of the partners (or both) had a previous marriage?(numbers 8, 23 h)	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Is there any impediment to marriage for any of the partners? (numbers 11, 23 d)	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Has any of the partners (or both) a prohibition to marriage? (Numbers 13, 23 g)	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Is the marriage ceremony scheduled to take place abroad? (Numbers 23 h, 28)	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Is there another reason to request for a <i>Nihil obstat</i> ? (paragraph 23 h)	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Is the marriage to take place outside a church (outdoor, etc.)? (can. 1118 § 2 CIC)	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	Are there any other problems (doubts about the marriage will or lack of prescribed documents, etc.)?	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>x If even one of these questions has been answered with “yes”, you must submit the marriage preparation protocol to the diocesan office. If you do not submit the protocol to the diocesan office, and nevertheless carry out the ceremony, such a marriage may be invalid.</p> <p>In case of an existing previous marriage, do not in any case commit yourself to fixing a wedding date.</p>	<p>✓ Only when all these questions are answered with "no" then you can go ahead to perform the ceremony, without first forwarding the marriage preparation protocol to the diocesan office.</p>	

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Skills regarding marriage preparation and wedding

Preparation of marriage				
Place	Residence of one of the Catholic partners, second residence of one of the catholic partners, one month residence of one of the catholic partners			Another place
Acting minister	Parish priest	General delegate	Another representative	Another clergyman
Carrying out the marriage preparation talk	✓	✓ in arrangement with the parish priest	only with mandate from the parish priest	Only with mandate from the parish priest of the parish of residence
			if mandate of the parish priest is given:	
Signature according to no. 22 in marriage preparation protocol	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signature according to no. 23 in marriage preparation protocol	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signature according to no. 28 in marriage preparation protocol	✓	✗	✗	✗

Granting of exemptions, permissions and <i>Nihil obstat</i>				
Place	Residence of one of the Catholic partners, second residence of one of the catholic partners, one month residence of one of the catholic partners			Another place
Acting minister	Parish priest	General delegate	Another representative	Another clergyman
Dispensation from banns if the marriage protocol has not to be submitted to the diocesan office	✓	✓	✗	✓
in case the protocol has to be submitted to the diocesan office	✗	✗	✗	✗
Dispensation from marriage impediments	✗	✗	✗	✗
Dispensation from canonical form of marriage	✗	✗	✗	✗
Grant of permission for inter-confessional marriage if the protocol has not to be submitted to the diocesan office	✓	✓	✗	✓
in case an Orthodox partner is involved	✗	✗	✗	✗
in case the protocol has to be submitted to the diocesan office for any other reason	✗	✗	✗	✗
Granting permission for marriage with a partner who has withdrawn from the Church	✗	✗	✗	✗
Granting of other marriage permissions	✗	✗	✗	✗

Granting permission to wed abroad	✘	✘	✘	✘
Granting permission for marriage with a partner of different rite	✘	✘	✘	✘
Granting a <i>Nihil obstat</i> for other reasons	✘	✘	✘	✘

Marriage authority			
Place	Venue of marriage		
	Parish priest	Delegated minister	Another ordained minister
Signature according to no. 27 of marriage preparation protocol	✔	✔	✘
Assistant during the wedding ceremony	✔	✔	Only with delegation through an ordained minister with powers to carry out marriage in the place of marriage

Registration of marriage						
Place	Residence (or second residence) of one of the catholic partners at the time of preparation of marriage, at which matrimony was prepared			Venue of marriage		
	Parish priest	Delegated minister	Another representative	Parish priest	Delegated minister	Another representative
Signature according to no. 31 of marriage preparation protocol						
in case of matrimony through a canonical form	✘	✘	✘	✔	✔	✔
in case of dispensation from canonical form	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✘

Conserving the marriage preparation protocol		
Place	Parish office at the residence (or second residence) of one of the catholic partners at the time of preparation of marriage, at which matrimony was prepared	Parish office where matrimony was carried out
Storage of marriage protocol with facilities		
in case of marriage through canonical form	✘	✔
in case of dispensation from canonical form	✔	✘