



Diocese of Fall River

Southeastern MA • Cape Cod • The Islands

From the desk of the Judicial Vicar:

The chart and further information that follow were designed to address situations regarding marriage which one is like to encounter in parish ministry. We hope that these resources clarify the course of action that must be undertaken before a person who was previously married may be free to:

- A. Be received into the Catholic Church or
- B. Enter into the sacrament of Matrimony in the Catholic Church.

As always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Tribunal Office.

Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Jeffrey Cabral, J.C.L.

Judicial Vicar

Diocese of Fall River

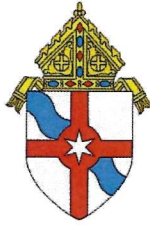


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Quick Reference Guide on Annulments for Pastoral Ministers

If a person was married previously and in that marriage...			
one person is...	and the other is...	and the marriage took place...	then the marriage is considered...
Catholic	Catholic	In a Catholic church or chapel	Valid <i>Annulment Required</i>
Catholic	Catholic	In a non-Catholic church, chapel, courthouse or other location (without permission or dispensation)	Invalid <i>Lack of Canonical Form Required</i>
Catholic	Non-Catholic	In a Catholic church or chapel	Valid <i>Annulment Required</i>
Catholic	Non-Catholic	In a non-Catholic church, chapel, or other location with a dispensation from canonical form	Valid <i>Annulment Required</i>
Catholic	Non-Catholic	In a non-Catholic church, chapel, or other location without a dispensation from canonical form	Invalid <i>Lack of Canonical Form Required</i>
Non-Catholic	Non-Catholic	Anywhere (including churches, chapels, courthouses, destination weddings, backyards etc.)	Valid <i>Contact Tribunal Office</i>



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Further Information:

1. Catholics are bound by canonical form. Marriages involving at least one Catholic must be contracted in the presence of the Church's minister (a priest or deacon) with the faculty to assist and two witnesses. (cc 1108 § 1 and 1117)
2. For sufficient reasons, a Catholic wishing to enter marriage with a validly baptized *non*-Catholic may be granted a dispensation from canonical form to celebrate the wedding in a non-Catholic church or chapel in the presence of a non-Catholic minister. (c 1127 § 2)
3. A Catholic wishing to enter marriage with a *non-baptized* person may be granted a dispensation from canonical form to celebrate the wedding in a non-Catholic church or chapel or some other suitable public place. *Marriages are never allowed outdoors.* (c 1129)
4. If canonical form is not observed by Catholics, the marriage is invalid by reason of a lack of canonical form. Two Catholics cannot be dispensed from canonical form.
5. Catholics and Orthodox are bound by canonical form. Non-Catholics are *not*.
6. Therefore, if two *non*-Catholics (excluding Orthodox) enter marriage, they may enter marriage validly *anywhere*, including courthouses and other venues.