

Determination of the Proper Parish

Policy No. 701

Policy Statement: The proper pastor of one of the Catholic parties is responsible for the completion of all necessary documentation, regardless of who officiates at the wedding.

Definition: By virtue of their place of residence, either domicile or quasi-domicile, Catholics acquire a parish and a pastor, whether they attend Sunday Mass or not, or whether they are registered in that parish or not.

A person acquires a ‘quasi-domicile’ by taking up residence within a territory with the intention of living there for more than three months, or by living in a territory for at least the past three months.

A person acquires a ‘domicile’ by taking up residence within a certain territory with the intention of living there permanently, or by having lived there for the past five years.

Ideally, Catholic parties are registered in a parish and approach their pastor to make arrangements for the Sacrament of Marriage.

- Procedure:***
- a) The first interview is to be done in the proper parish of one of the Catholic parties regardless of where the wedding ceremony is to take place.
 - b) When a wedding is to be celebrated in a parish other than the proper parish of one of the Catholic parties, both pastors must be in agreement. The pastor of the couple should personally contact the parish where the couple wishes to marry. The decision agreed to by the two pastors should be communicated to the couple by their own pastor (c. 1115).