

Prenuptial Interviews and Forms

Policy No. 704

- Policy Statement:** Couples planning to marry in the Archdiocese are to meet with their pastor and/or designated parish minister a minimum of three times.
- Intent of Policy:** To allow for the parish to journey with the engaged couple in a caring and supportive manner as the wedding date approaches. Three meetings are the *minimum* number of times for parish contact with the engaged couple to exercise the necessary pastoral care and concern for the couple and to strengthen their relationship with the parish community.
- Definition:** Prenuptial Forms are internal Church documents of the Archdiocese that ascertain an individual freedom to marry. The completion of these documents in full ensures our due diligence in serving the couple, the avoidance of complications, while preserving the reverence for the Sacrament of Marriage.
- Procedure:**
- 1st Meeting: The initial meeting with an engaged couple begins the dialogue necessary to develop an awareness of the personal history that has shaped the engaged couple's personalities and formed their attitudes about Christian marriage. It is a time for the engaged couple to reflect seriously on the meaning of marriage in the Church.
- It is during the first meeting that the marriage preparation requirements of both the parish and the Archdiocese are to be explained to the couple. Form 1A is to be completed. When completing Form 1A, if either party answers in the affirmative to any part of Question 5, complete Form 1C, Section I and follow up for any necessary documentation.
- 2nd Meeting: This meeting is to take place after the engaged couple completes an approved marriage preparation course, and is to be conducted by the priest or deacon. Its purpose is to give the couple the opportunity to reaffirm their decision for marriage and in particular for marriage in the Church. To facilitate this discussion, Form 1B should be completed.
- In order to achieve the purpose of completing Form 1B, each party is to meet individually with the priest or deacon and be interviewed separately. The Form 1B is not to be given to the parties to be completed on their own.
- 3rd Meeting: The pastor, or designate, will assist the couple in preparing for the liturgical celebration of their marriage.

Refer to Appendix:

- 704A Instructions to Complete Prenuptial Forms
- 704B Prenuptial Forms