

Prohibition Regarding Marriage

Policy No. 761

Policy Statement: A formal declaration of nullity may be issued with a prohibition, called *Vetitum*, which restricts the freedom of either one or both of the parties to marry in the Catholic Church.

No date for a marriage in the Church is to be confirmed until the requirements necessary to lift the prohibition have been satisfied.

Definitions: **Vetitum** is a prohibition which prevents the celebration of a marriage without the expressed consent of the Archbishop or his delegate. The restriction is imposed to ensure that serious factors and problems identified during the tribunal study of a previous union have been adequately dealt with to the extent that they are not likely to contribute to difficulties in a marriage or invalidate the marriage consent.

Monitum is a pastoral caution intended primarily for the minister who will be arranging the marriage, advising him to take special care that the party has a full and adequate understanding of the rights and obligations being undertaken in the sacrament of marriage.

Intent of Policy: A declaration of nullity is not an automatic authorization to marry in the Catholic Church. Care must be taken to ensure that difficulties present in a previous union will not be present in any new marriage.

Procedure:

- a) When a previous union has occurred and has been dissolved by a declaration of nullity, the minister arranging the marriage must read a copy of the decree issued by the tribunal that processed the case.
- b) If the text of the document indicates that there is a prohibition, *Vetitum*, the minister will contact the tribunal that issued the decree.
- c) The tribunal will advise the minister as to what actions the judges intended for the party or parties to undertake in order to have the prohibition lifted.
- d) The minister will communicate the required actions to the party or parties and ensure that they have been adhered to before lifting the prohibition.
 - if the necessary requirements have been fulfilled, the minister will complete the prenuptial file by noting it on the decree of nullity document with his signature and the date confirming that the requirements have been satisfied.
 - if the requirements have not been fulfilled, the minister may not proceed with the submission of the prenuptial file until there is satisfactory evidence that the requirements have been met.