



Current Marital Status Follow-Up

Archdiocese for the
Military Services, USA

Inquirer's Name: _____

*Depending on the responses given in **Section III. Current Marital Status** (on the *Inquirer Information Form*), you may need to complete additional information or ask follow-up questions as indicated below.*

If the Inquirer responds...“2. I am engaged to be married.”

1. Look at Questions (c) and (d)

If either the inquirer and/or the inquirer's fiancé(e) has been previously married, complete Section V and/or VI on the **Previous Marriage Information** form with the inquirer/inquirer's fiancé(e). If either party has a previous marriage that has not been adjudicated, the inquirer should be informed of the need to contact the Marriage Tribunal as soon as possible and, if necessary, start a case. You will also need to inform the inquirer immediately that no guarantee can be given that any case submitted to the Tribunal might be adjudicated in time for reception into the Church on Holy Saturday of the coming year.

2. Ask this Follow-Up Question

(e) When are you hoping to be married? _____

You may need to explain the process of marriage preparation in the Catholic Church and any applicable Archdiocesan marriage policies that may affect a wedding date

If the Inquirer responds...“3. I am married.”

1. Look at Questions (c) and (d)

If either the inquirer and/or the inquirer's spouse has been previously married, complete Section V and/or VI on the **Previous Marriage Information** form with the inquirer/the inquirer's spouse. If either party has a previous marriage that has not been adjudicated, the inquirer should be informed of the need to contact the Marriage Tribunal as soon as possible and, if necessary, start a case. You will also need to inform the inquirer immediately that no guarantee can be given that any case submitted to the Tribunal might be adjudicated in time for reception into the Church on Holy Saturday of the coming year.

Continued on reverse side.

If the Inquirer responds...“3. I am married.” (Continued)

2. Ask these Follow-Up Questions

(g) Was your spouse baptized as a Catholic? Yes No

If neither the inquirer nor the inquirer’s spouse was baptized as a Catholic, then no further questions are needed.

If either the inquirer or his/her spouse was baptized as a Catholic, then you will need to ask:

(h) Was your marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon? Yes No

If “Yes,” then no further questions are needed.

If “No,” then you will need to ask:

(i) Did you receive a dispensation to have someone other than a Catholic priest or deacon witness your marriage? Yes No I am not sure

If someone was baptized as a Catholic and did not either (1) have their marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon or (2) receive a dispensation from this requirement, the marriage will need to be convalidated.

If the Inquirer responds...“5. I am divorced and I have not remarried.”

1. Ask this Follow-Up Question

(a) Is your previous spouse alive? Yes No

“Yes”—If the former spouse is alive, the inquirer may be received into the Church without having their previous marriage adjudicated. However, the following points must be addressed before taking this route.

While the adjudication of a previous marriage for someone who is divorced and not remarried is not strictly required to be received into the Church, there is a certain advisability for someone in this situation to contact the Marriage Tribunal and start a case, if necessary, if a future marriage is a possibility. If an inquirer chooses not to have a previous marriage adjudicated, the inquirer will need to understand that if he/she is received into the Church and then wants to marry again, he/she will have to have the previous marriage adjudicated at that point and, if the previous marriage is determined to be valid, he/she will not be able to marry in the Church until that marital bond is dissolved upon the death of the former spouse. If the inquirer clearly understands this, then they may be received into the Church.

“No”—If the former spouse has died, there is no impediment to the person being received into the Church because there is no existing marital bond. People sometimes think that even if they are divorced and their former spouse has died, they still cannot become Catholic. This is not true.