

# DIOCESE OF ERIE

PRE-NUPTIAL INVESTIGATION: Form M-B

AFFIDAVIT OF WITNESS FOR GROOM

*The priest, deacon or auditor should interview the witness in person. However, if this is not possible, the interview may be conducted by telephone. The introductory questions should be asked in addition to the questions from the applicable section or sections. The witness should then sign and date the affidavit. If the interview is conducted by telephone, the minister should write "telephone interview" on the line for the witness signature.*

Do you solemnly swear to tell the whole truth in answering the following questions? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of groom \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to groom \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the groom? \_\_\_\_\_ How well? \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. TO ESTABLISH BAPTISM OR NON-BAPTISM

*This section must be completed (1) to prove that the groom was baptized when no baptismal certificate is available or (2) to establish that the groom was never baptized. Affidavits from both parents are preferred. If not possible, then from one parent and one close relative, or two close relatives.*

Was this person ever baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ In what denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Name and address (City/State) of church \_\_\_\_\_

Were you present? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, how do you know of the baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

If not baptized, what is the reason? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. REGARDING FREEDOM TO MARRY

*This section must be completed when (1) the groom is not a Catholic; or (2) the only baptismal certificate available for the Catholic groom is older than six months; or (3) the current baptismal certificate of the Catholic groom has no sacramental notations; or (4) the Catholic groom is personally unknown to the priest or deacon; or (5) this form is being used as part of a Lack of Canonical Form petition, N.B. the witness is testifying to the petitioner's current status. Affidavits from two close relatives or life-long friends are usually required.*

Has the groom ever been married in any form of wedding ceremony, religious or civil? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_ Please list:  
Name of former spouse Date of marriage Length of marriage When and how did the marriage end?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

If a previous marriage was outside the Catholic Church, was it ever blessed or convalidated in the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know? (Please give adequate explanation) \_\_\_\_\_

Is this groom bound by any impediment that would prevent the coming marriage from being lawful or valid? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

Is this groom intending to enter a life-long and exclusive union with his spouse which will be open to having children? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, or if you have heard this groom express any contrary intention, condition or reservation regarding these matters, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Is this groom entering this marriage freely? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. IF THE GROOM IS UNDER 19 YEARS OF AGE or THE BRIDE IS PREGNANT

*Affidavits from both parents are preferred. If not possible, then from one parent and one close relative, or two close relatives.*

How long has this couple known each other? \_\_\_\_\_

When did you become aware of their intention to marry? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you or anyone tried to discourage them from entering this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Have the parents of these persons given their consent? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe this marriage will be a success? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain \_\_\_\_\_

Is this groom entering this marriage freely? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest/Deacon/Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Church – City/State