

# DIOCESE OF ERIE

PRE-NUPTIAL INVESTIGATION: Form M-B

AFFIDAVIT OF WITNESS FOR BRIDE

*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 bride \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to bride \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 1. TO ESTABLISH BAPTISM OR NON-BAPTISM

*This section must be completed (1) to prove that the bride was baptized when no baptismal certificate is available or (2) to establish that the bride 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 bride is not a Catholic; or (2) the only baptismal certificate available for the Catholic bride is older than six months; or (3) the current baptismal certificate of the Catholic bride has no sacramental notations; or (4) the Catholic bride 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 bride 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 bride bound by any impediment that would prevent the coming marriage from being lawful or valid? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

## 3. IF THE BRIDE IS UNDER 19 YEARS OF AGE or 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 bride entering this marriage freely? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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