



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

Nihil Obstat Information

****All *Nihil Obstat* requests must be submitted to the Tribunal at least one month prior to a wedding date.****

The purpose of the *Nihil Obstat* is to confirm that all the steps required by the Catholic Church for a valid marriage to be contracted have been met by both parties.

All forms may be found on the Texas Catholic Conference website:

<http://www.txcatholic.org/#!marriage-forms/c11d>

The *Nihil Obstat* package must include:

- The ***Nihil Obstat* Requirements Checklist and Addendum Sheet**
- **Copies** of the items listed on the checklist (**Original documents** required for a marriage outside of the diocese)

Required for all Marriages

- Proof of **marriage preparation**, from the pastoral agent preparing the couple
- A Letter of Good Standing for all visiting priests

Required for Prior Marriage(s)

- In the case of a Declaration of Invalidity: If there were restrictions (monitum, vetitum) placed on either/or both parties, the restrictions need to have been fulfilled before a *Nihil Obstat* request is submitted. **Clergy must request the Decree of Invalidity from the Tribunal before the *Nihil Obstat* is submitted.**

After reviewing the submitted paperwork, if the marriage is to occur within the Diocese of Fort Worth, we will grant the *Nihil Obstat* and send a decree to the parish. If the marriage is to occur outside of the diocese, we will send all paperwork and the *Nihil Obstat* decree to our Chancery for the Bishop's permission, and then they will forward the paperwork to the correct Diocese.

If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Reyes, Ecclesiastical Notary at 817/945-9431.

If the packet is incomplete it will not be accepted and will be returned to the parish regardless of how close to the wedding date it may be.

Very Rev. D. Timothy Thompson, JCL
Judicial Vicar

Request prepared by _____

Parish _____

City _____

Phone Number _____

Name & Signature of Clergy _____

Groom's Name _____

Bride's Name _____

***Nihil Obstat* Requirements Checklist**

Required for all Marriages:

_____ **Pre-nuptial Questionnaire**, including for convalidations (TCC Form V)

_____ **Baptismal or Profession of Faith Records**, for Groom and/or Bride, if Catholic, issued within last 6 months **with notations**

_____ **Proof of Baptism for the baptized non-Catholic**

_____ **Petition for Dispensation or Permission**, if applicable (TCC Form III)

_____ **Witness Affidavit of Freedom to Marry** (TCC Form II), 2 for Bride / 2 for Groom

_____ **Proof** that marriage preparation has been completed – See **Addendum**

_____ Pre-Cana or Today Tomorrow & Forever Certificate

_____ Fully Engaged Comparison Results Sheet or Sponsor Couple Feedback Form

_____ NFP Certificate

_____ **Copy of Marriage License**

_____ **Letter of Good Standing** for any priests not of the Diocese of Fort Worth

_____ Marriage to take place **within** The Diocese of Fort Worth

_____ Marriage to take place **outside** The Diocese of Fort Worth/ Provide complete name and address of parish **and name of the diocese**.

Additionally required for persons with a prior Marriage(s):

_____ **Decree(s) of Declaration of Invalidity**, for any previous marriage(s) for either or both parties, **AND/OR**

_____ **Decree(s) of Lack of Canonical Form**, for any previous marriage(s) for either or both parties

Incomplete packets will not be accepted and will be returned no matter how close to the wedding date it may be. A Nihil Obstat will not be granted

**Proof of Marriage Preparation Addendum
For
Engaged Couples**

Groom's Name _____

Bride's Name _____

Theological Formation

In Ft Worth, Diocesan *Pre-Cana* Class, or online class from www.catholicmarriageprep.com is required. However, if a couple is preparing in another Diocese their equivalent will suffice.

Date Completed _____

Life Skills Formation

In Ft. Worth *the Fully Engaged Sponsor Couple Program* is required. If a couple is preparing in another diocese an equivalent of a premarital inventory such as *Prepare/Enrich* or *FOCCUS* will suffice.

Date Completed _____

Natural Family Planning

This needs to be a full course consisting of a minimum of 3 classes and not just an introduction.

Method _____

Date Completed _____

If not completed, please explain.

**Proof of Marriage Preparation Addendum
For
Convalidation**

Groom's Name _____

Bride's Name _____

Theological Formation

Today, Tomorrow and Forever or Jesus Te Invita al Sacramento de Matrimonio.

Date Completed _____

Life Skills Formation

Fully Engaged Sponsor Couple Program for Couples seeking Convalidation.

Date Completed _____

Natural Family Planning

This needs to be a full course consisting of a minimum of 3 classes and not just an introduction.

Method _____

Date Completed _____

If not completed, please explain.
