



R.C.I.A.

**Implications of Marital and
Annulment Issues on the R.C.I.A.**

**2017 Atlanta
Catechist Conference**

General Question

“Is a divorced person free to remarry in the Catholic Church?”

No. If the ex-spouse is still living, all of his/her previous marriages, civil or religious, have to be examined by the Tribunal before he/she is able to remarry in the Catholic Church

Concerns

I am an R.C.I.A. candidate, who is:

... previously married

... divorced

... **civilly married**

... planning to remarry in the Catholic Church

I have a question:

“Am I free to remarry in the Catholic Church?”

No. If your ex-spouse is still living, all of your previous marriages (all religions) have to be examined by the Tribunal before you are able to remarry in the Catholic Church

Concerns

I am an R.C.I.A. candidate, who is:

... previously married

... **civily married**

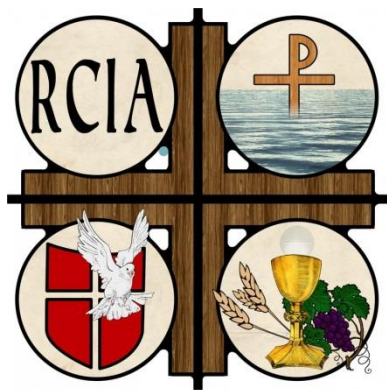
... planning to remarry in the Catholic Church

I have a question:

“Am I able to receive the Sacrament of Initiation?”

No. If your ex-spouse is still living, all of your previous marriages (all religions) have to be examined by the Tribunal before you are able to receive the Sacrament

Role of the Tribunal



R.C.I.A. Candidates
With Marital Issues



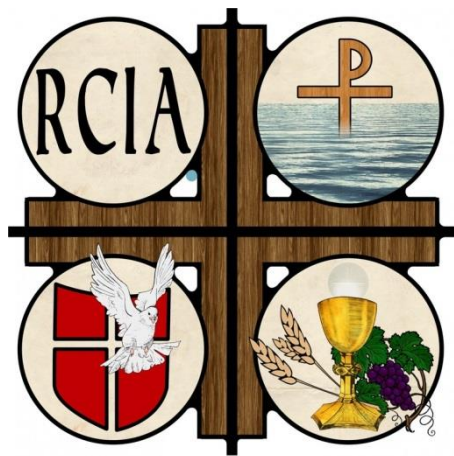
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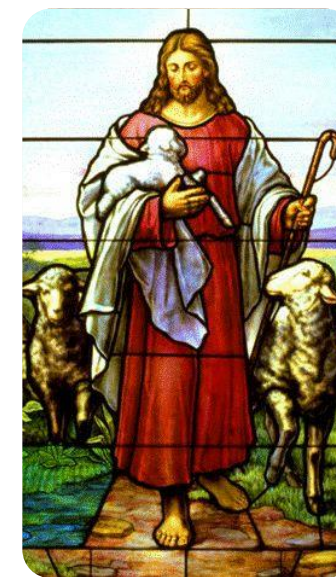
Catholic Church

Pathway to Tribunal

The interview process will help determine and have marital issues resolved before R.C.I.A. candidates can receive Sacrament, or remarry in the Catholic Church



R.C.I.A.
Candidates



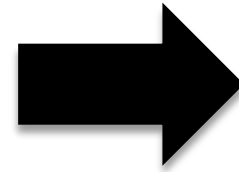
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**R.C.I.A.
Coordinators** & **Case
Sponsors**

Role of R.C.I.A. Coordinators and CS



Interview between
R.C.I.A. coordinators and candidates
Case Sponsors and R.C.I.A. candidates



Determine marriage cases

Questions to R.C.I.A. Candidates

1. Have you ever been baptized in any denomination?
2. Have you ever been married to anyone in any form?
3. Is your former spouse or the former spouse of the person you are presently married to or desire to marry still living?
4. Has the civil divorce been completed?
5. Have you ever had a marriage case, or completed the annulment process?

It All Begins with Baptism

Three types of R.C.I.A. candidates include:

1. Unbaptized
2. Validly baptized
3. Invalidly baptized (be considered as unbaptized)

Notes: Baptism is a sacrament that is not repeated, once an individual has been validly baptized



Essentials for A Valid Baptism

The matter: Water is poured or the one or be baptized is immersed in water (CIC 854)

The form: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (CIC 850)

Ordinary minister: bishop, priest, or deacon

Intention: intend to do what the Church intends to do by baptism – "salvation for everyone"

Notes: A non-Catholic person who is baptized with water and the Trinitarian formula is **validly baptized**



Churches Whose Baptisms Are Valid

Adventists

African Methodist Episcopal

African Methodist Episcopal Zion

Amish

Anglican Communion

Assembly of God

Baptists

Christian and Missionary Alliance

Christian Church

Christian Church, Disciples of Christ

Church of the Brethren

Church of Christ

Church of God:

of Prophecy

of Anderson, Indiana

of Cleveland, Tennessee

and various others

Church of the Nazarene

Pentecostals

Cumberland Presbyterians

Evangelical United Brethren

Evangelical Churches

International Council of Community Churches

Liberal Catholic Church

Lutherans:

Missouri Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Wisconsin Lutheran

Mennonites

Methodists

Old Roman Catholics

Old Catholics

Orthodox Churches

Polish National Church

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Reformed Churches

United Church of Christ Classical

Churches Whose Baptisms Are Invalid

Apostolic Church

Bohemian Free Thinkers

Christadelphians

Christian Scientists

Church of Divine Science

Jehovah's Witnesses

Masons (no baptism)

*Pentecostal Churches

Peoples Church of Chicago

Quakers

Rudolph Steiner's Christian Community:

Die Christengemeinschaft

Salvation Army (no baptism)

Unitarians Mormons

How is Baptism Proven?

A baptismal certificate is required

An affidavit by a parent, or other witnesses (e.g. godparents, family members) can be used **only when** it is **impossible** to obtain a baptismal certificate



Marriage Cases

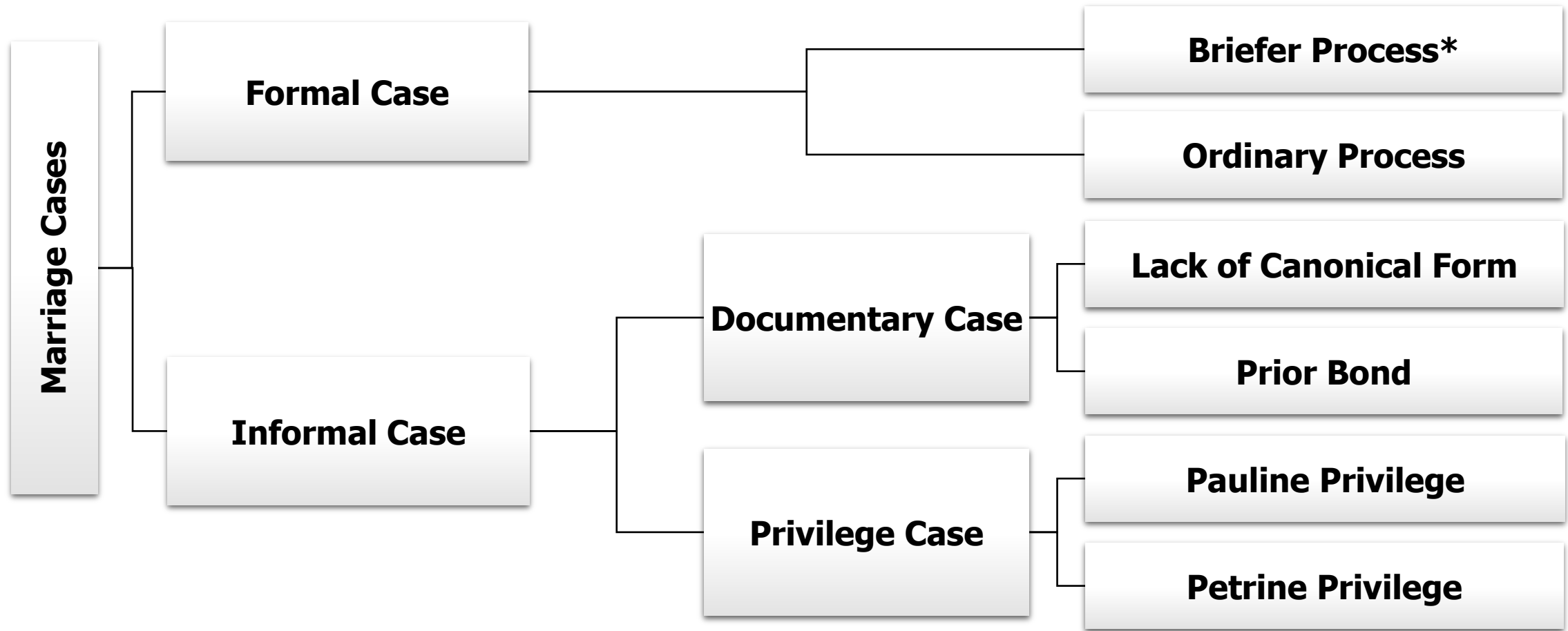
Any marriage contracted with even only one Catholic party is subject to Canon Law (CIC 1059)

CAN. 1059 *Even if only one party is Catholic, the marriage of Catholics is governed not only by divine law but also by canon law, without prejudice to the competence of civil authority concerning the merely civil effects of the same marriage*

Depending on baptismal status and place of marriage, a type of marriage case will be determined



Marriage Cases

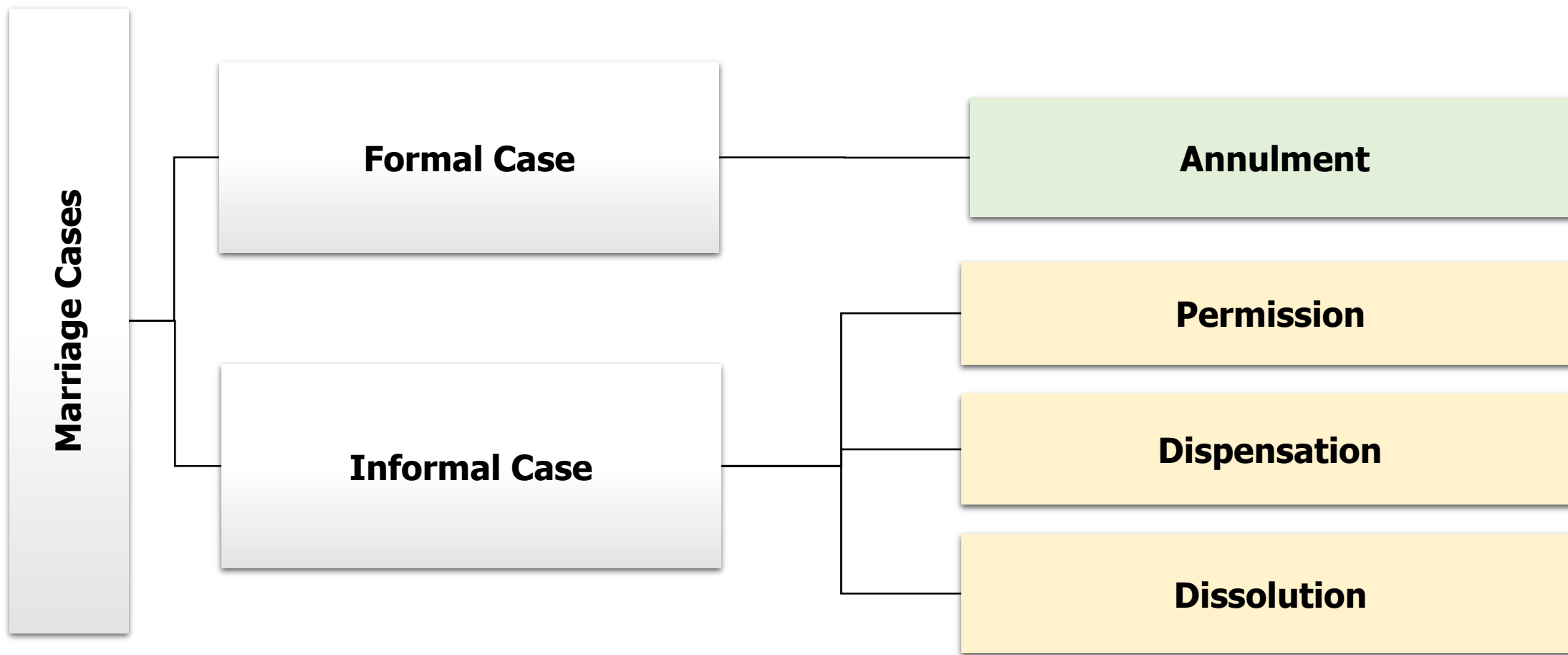


*** Effective on December 8, 2015

Types of Marriage Cases

Parties	Place of Marriage	Types
Catholic + Catholic	Catholic Church	Formal Case
Catholic + Catholic	Outside of the Church, no dispensation	Lack of Form
Catholic + Validly Baptized	Catholic Church	Formal Case
Catholic + Validly Baptized	Anywhere, with dispensation	Formal Case
Validly Baptized	Anywhere	Formal Case
Unbaptized + Unbaptized <i>(remained unbaptized after divorce)</i>	Anywhere	Pauline Privilege
Catholic + Unbaptized	Catholic Church	Petrine Privilege
Catholic + Unbaptized	Anywhere, with dispensation	Petrine Privilege
Validly Baptized + Unbaptized <i>(remained unbaptized after divorce)</i>	Anywhere	Petrine Privilege
Catholic + Baptized	Outside of the Church, no dispensation	Lack of Form
Catholic + Unbaptized	Outside of the Church, no dispensation	Lack of Form
Both parties are non-Catholic, and at least two marriages involved	Anywhere	Prior Bond

Consequences of the Decision



*** Effective on December 8, 2015

Consequences of the Decision of a Formal Case

Affirmative Decision:

- Free to enter marriage in the Catholic Church
- Required conditions/prohibitions
- No effect on status of children, or legal obligations

Negative Decision:

- Not free to remarry in the Catholic Church
- Right to appeal
- Right to bring a new case

Some of the Most Relevant Changes Introduced by Pope Francis

- Briefer process for formal cases
- Mandatory appeal is no longer required
- No fee is required

Questions

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