

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

AFFIDAVIT FOR LICENSE TO MARRY

Instructions

General

All information shall be **TYPED** or printed legibly in **CAPITAL** letters.

The Affidavit should be submitted **NO LESS THAN 30 DAYS**, and **NO MORE THAN 60 DAYS** prior to the anticipated date of the wedding by the Parish priest to the “Metropolis of Atlanta, Department of Registry.”

The Affidavit shall not be submitted to the Metropolis if an ecclesiastical divorce from a prior ecclesiastical marriage has not been issued.

In rare cases of absolute necessity only, the Metropolis will allow communication by telegram – or facsimile (FAX) transmission - to request permission to marry. In such cases, the Priest must verify that the request is in good canonical order and that the required documents have been mailed. By oikonomia, permission may be given by the Metropolis with the understanding that the Priest is fully responsible.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

The anticipated date of the wedding, exact birth and baptism dates, the city, state and country of birth, religion, occupation, the date of arrival in the United States (if applicable), as well as the date of completing this form are **ALL** required.

Any previous Marriage or wedding must be noted FORM 165 - even if it is a prior civil wedding between the couple filing this Affidavit.

Both the first and last names of the bride and groom should be recorded **BOTH** in Greek and English if they are of Greek descent.

For the **BRIDE**: the **last name should be her family name** or that of a previous spouse. If it is her second marriage, please fill in the father’s first **and** last name in question number 9. The name of a present spouse should **NEVER** be used, even if **she does use it due to a civil marriage**, because the ecclesiastical Marriage has not yet taken place.

THE AFFIDAVIT WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT PERMISSION TO PERFORM THE WEDDING IF ANY OF THESE ITEMS ARE NOT COMPLETED.

Required Supplementary Documents

1. **Form 165** must be submitted by each petitioner if any previous Marriage or wedding has taken place, be it ecclesiastical or civil – even if it is a prior civil wedding between the couple filing this Affidavit.
2. If widowed, a **certificate of death** of the spouse from the previous Orthodox Marriage is required.
3. If ecclesiastically divorced, the **Original Ecclesiastical Divorce Decree** is required. If civilly divorced from a non-ecclesiastical wedding, the priest must see the civil divorce decree to verify it, but the civil decree does not need to be submitted.
4. A certificate that the person is free to marry is required for any petitioner who entered the Archdiocese of America and/or the Metropolis of Atlanta from another Diocese or Metropolis after the age of 16. If from another country, it must be issued from the Metropolis in which the person was born, and not from the parish or community. If from another Metropolis of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, it must be issued from the home parish and verified by the local Bishop . Only originals may be submitted, photocopies are unacceptable.
5. Written consent of both parents is required for any bride and/or groom under 18 years of age.

THE AFFIDAVIT WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT PERMISSION TO PERFORM THE WEDDING IF ANY OF THESE ITEMS ARE NOT COMPLETED.

These documents become legal records which may be needed in the future.

Accurate information is vital for the protection of all involved.

Your careful attention is greatly appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE: The couple is solely responsible for obtaining a civil wedding license; the marriage cannot take place without both a Civil and Ecclesiastical license. This affidavit is an application only for the Ecclesiastical license.