



**ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE**

**Office of the Tribunal**

**Catholic Center**

**AFFIDAVIT OF FREE STATUS FOR MARRIAGE OF**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 Groom (print full name) Bride (print full name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Parish of marriage and address)

Affidavit of witness for  Bride or  Groom

Two witnesses must be interviewed using this form in order:  
 1. to assist in providing baptism, when certificate is unavailable.  
 2. To establish freedom to marry when either party is not well known to the pastor or delegate arranging the wedding.  
 3. To investigate the attitude of BOTH parents, when either party is under twenty-one years old.  
 4. To investigate the stability of the marriage when either party is under eighteen years old.  
 5. To assist chancery officials when a dispensation/permission is being sought.  
 Parental testimony is always preferred and should not be neglected except for grave reasons.

1. Do you solemnly swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth in answering the following questions? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your relationship to the person whose name appears above? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How long have you known this person? \_\_\_\_\_ How well? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Has the above mentioned person ever been married before to a person other than the one presently intended? \_\_\_\_\_

religiously,  civilly,  common law. How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

With whom? \_\_\_\_\_

How have these marriages ended? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Have the natural obligations toward spouse or children arising from a prior union been fulfilled? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are the parties in this intended marriage related to each other? \_\_\_\_\_ In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

8. To your knowledge, does the above mentioned person intend to have children in this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If "no," please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

9. To your knowledge, is the above mentioned person entering this marriage freely? \_\_\_\_\_

If "no," please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

10. To your knowledge, does the above mentioned person intend to enter a life-long union? \_\_\_\_\_

If "no," please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

11. To your knowledge, does the above mentioned person intend to be faithful for life to the partner in this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If "no," please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you know of any reason, faulty intent or impediment for which this person should not be married? \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes," please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

13. If this person is a Catholic, has he/she ever formally left the church? \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes," please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Does this person understand that marriage in the church is a partnership of life and love? \_\_\_\_\_

15. How long have these parties known one another? \_\_\_\_\_

16. How long have they been dating with a view to marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

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

18. Have you tried to discourage them from entering this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes," why? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Is there any reason why this person feels obliged to marry at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes," what is the reason? \_\_\_\_\_

**TO ESTABLISH BAPTISM OR NON-BAPTISM**

20. Was the above mentioned person ever baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ In what religion? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_ In what church and place? \_\_\_\_\_

By whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Who were the sponsors? \_\_\_\_\_

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

What religion does this person practice at present? \_\_\_\_\_

21. If the above mentioned person was not baptized, how you know of the non-baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

**IF THE PARTY IS 18-21 YEARS OF AGE**

22. Have the parents of this person been consulted about this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

What is their attitude to this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

**IF EITHER PARTY IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE**

(The following questions should be answered by the person testifying. In addition, a letter of recommendation is required from the pastor or delegate.)

23. Have the parents of this person been consulted about this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

What is their attitude to this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Have they given their consent? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

24. How do the parties intend to meet their mutual financial responsibilities? \_\_\_\_\_

As you sign this testimonial, do you certify that you have read the answers and realize that you are under oath in making these statements? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of interviewing pastor/delegate

PARISH SEAL