



# Current Marital Status Follow-Up

**Inquirer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Depending on the responses given on the Inquirer Information Form in **Section III. Current Marital Status**, you may need to complete additional information or ask follow-up questions as indicated below.*

## **If the Inquirer responds...“2. I am engaged to be married.”**

### **1. Look at Questions (c) and (d)**

If either the inquirer and/or the inquirer's fiancé(e) has been previously married, complete Section I and/or II on the Previous Marriage Information Form with the inquirer/inquirer's fiancé(e). If either party has a previous marriage that has not been adjudicated, the inquirer should be informed of the need to contact the marriage tribunal of the diocese as soon as possible and, if necessary, start a case. The local pastor should be informed of the same.

You will also need to inform the inquirer immediately that no guarantee can be given that any case submitted to the diocesan marriage tribunal might be adjudicated in time for reception into the Church by the Easter Vigil of the coming year.

### **2. Ask this Follow-Up Question**

When are you hoping to be married?

You may need to explain the process of marriage preparation in the Catholic Church and any applicable diocesan marriage policies that may affect a wedding date.

## **If the Inquirer responds...“3. I am married.”**

### **1. Look at Questions (c) and (d)**

If either the inquirer and/or the inquirer's spouse has been previously married, complete Section I and/or II on the Previous Marriage Information Form with the inquirer/the inquirer's spouse. If either party has a previous marriage that has not been adjudicated, the inquirer should be informed of the need to contact the marriage tribunal of the diocese as soon as possible and, if necessary, start a case. The local pastor should be informed of the same.

You will also need to inform the inquirer immediately that no guarantee can be given that any case submitted to the diocesan marriage tribunal might be adjudicated in time for reception into the Church by the Easter Vigil of the coming year.

### If the Inquirer responds...“3. I am married.” (Continued)

#### 2. Ask these Follow-Up Questions

Was your spouse baptized as a Catholic?  Yes  No

If neither the inquirer nor the inquirer’s spouse was baptized as a Catholic, then no further questions are needed.

If either the inquirer or his/her spouse was baptized as a Catholic, then you will need to ask:

Was your marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon?  Yes  No

If “Yes,” then no further questions are needed.

If “No,” then you will need to ask:

Did you receive a dispensation to have someone other than a Catholic priest or deacon witness your marriage?  Yes  No  I am not sure

If someone was baptized as a Catholic and did *not* either (1) have their marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon or (2) receive a dispensation from this requirement, you will need to inform the local pastor to determine if the marriage will need to be convalidated.

### If the Inquirer responds...“5. I am divorced and I have not remarried.”

#### Ask this Follow-Up Question

Is your previous spouse alive?  Yes  No

“**Yes**”—If the former spouse is alive, the inquirer *may* be received into the Catholic Church without having his/her previous marriage adjudicated. However, the following points must be addressed before taking this route.

While the adjudication of a previous marriage for someone who is divorced and not remarried is not strictly required to be received into the Catholic Church, there is a certain advisability for someone in this situation to contact the diocesan marriage tribunal and start a case, if necessary, if a future marriage is a possibility. If an inquirer chooses not to have a previous marriage adjudicated, the inquirer will need to understand that if he/she is received into the Catholic Church and then wants to marry again, he/she will have to have the previous marriage adjudicated at that point and, if the previous marriage is determined to be valid, he/she will not be able to marry in the Catholic Church until that marital bond is dissolved upon the death of the former spouse. If the inquirer clearly understands this, then he/she may be received into the Church.

“**No**”—If the former spouse has died, there is no impediment to the person being received into the Church because there is no existing marital bond. People sometimes think that even if they are divorced and their former spouse has died, they still cannot become Catholic. This is not true.