

CANONICAL REASONS FOR MARRIAGE DISPENSATIONS

There are times when the below enumerated reasons do not apply to the particular marriage for which a dispensation is being requested. In such cases, the priest applying should state the reason according to his judgment.

A. Canonical Causes sufficient in themselves:

1. The promise of embracing the Catholic Religion;
2. Founded hope of conversion of the non-Catholic party;
3. Danger of a civil marriage or a marriage in the presence of a minister;
4. Danger of Apostasy from the Faith if the dispensation were not granted;
5. The necessity of removing grave scandal;
6. Pregnancy and the legitimation of the child;
7. Revalidation of an invalid marriage;
8. Grave danger of incontinence.

B. Canonical Causes, not sufficient in themselves, but that can become so by reason of special circumstances:

1. The spouse of the groom is beyond the usual age for marriage;
2. The groom is a widower with children;
3. Everything is prepared for the wedding;
4. The intention of the couple to marry is widely known;
5. Mutual help to each other in advanced age.

C. Below are enumerated some common canonical reasons a dispensation from the canonical form can be requested:

1. To achieve family harmony or avoid family alienation;
2. To obtain parental agreement to a marriage;
3. To recognize a significant claim of relationship or special friendship with a non-Catholic minister;
4. To permit a marriage in a church that has particular importance to the non-Catholic;
5. The knowledge of the coming marriage is fully known in the community.