

REQUIRED CERTIFICATES FOR WEDDING

SPONSOR (i.e. the Best Man, or in Gr. *Koumbaros* or *Koumbara*)

1. **LETTER OF MEMBERSHIP.** The Sponsor/Best Man (Koumbaros / Koumbara), who participates in the exchange of the rings and the crowns in an Orthodox Wedding, must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing* and a valid member of an Orthodox parish of any canonical (i.e. recognized) Orthodox jurisdiction, regardless whether within or outside of our Metropolis.

If the Sponsor is not from our community he/she must provide a letter of membership (not a “paid dues receipt”) from his/her Parish Priest (within or outside of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Canada) stating that he/she is a member both ecclesiastically and financially in good standing for the current year. If the Sponsor is not a valid member of his/her own parish, he/she must see to immediately reinstate oneself as a member in good standing of his/her own parish. Meanwhile, the Sponsor should pay one time membership dues to our community right upon booking the Wedding.

If the Sponsor is from our community, he/she does not have to present any letter. However, the same criteria of a member in good standing apply to him/her (as described in the footnote).

2. **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE.** The Sponsor/Best Man (i.e. Koumbaros / Koumbara) must produce his/her original Certificate of Baptism.

3. **CHURCH MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.** If the Sponsor/Best Man (i.e. Koumbaros / Koumbara) is married, he/she must provide a copy of the Church Matrimony certificate. The Sponsor/Best Man must be married in the Orthodox Church. A person cannot serve as a Sponsor if any of the following conditions exist: a) his/her marriage has not been blessed by the Orthodox Church, but is a type of: “common law,” civil marriage, concubinage, heterodox (Non-Orthodox Christian denomination) marriage or Non-Christian religious marriage; b) he/she has a civil (court) divorce but has not been granted an ecclesiastical (i.e. Church) divorce; c) any other reason he/she is not in communion with the Orthodox Church.

GROOM and BRIDE

1. **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES.** The Groom and the Bride must produce their original Certificate of Baptism regardless their Christian denomination (one of you must obviously be an Orthodox Christian). If one of two is not baptised, please talk immediately to the Priest.

2. **LETTERS OF MEMBERSHIP.** If the Groom or the Bride is not from our community, he or she must provide a letter of membership (not just a “paid dues receipt”) from his/her Parish Priest (within or outside of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Canada) stating that he or she is a

* **4th Paragraph** of the **5th Article** of the Uniform Community Regulations states: “The religious, moral and social duties of a Parishioner are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox faith to his or her life and activities, to seek personal spiritual growth, to attend the divine liturgy and other services of worship faithfully on Sundays and other holy days, to keep the rules and fasts of the Orthodox tradition, to receive frequently the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, to train and teach the young according to the faith and morale of Orthodoxy, to respect the clergy, the ecclesiastical authority, and all governing bodies of the Church, to be obedient in matters of faith and ecclesiastical order, and to cooperate in every way towards the welfare and prosperity of the Community and the success of its sacred mission.” (<http://www.gometropolis.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Uniform-Community-Regulations.pdf>)

member both ecclesiastically and financially in good standing for the current year. If the Groom or the Bride is not a valid member of his or her own parish, he or she must see to immediately reinstate oneself as a member in good standing (as described in the footnote) of his/her own parish.

If you are our parishioner(s), you must be the paid member(s) of our community for the last 2 years. In this case you do not require any letter. However, to qualify for the member in good standing, the same religious expectations apply to you (as described in the footnote).

3. CITY HALL LICENCE. In compliance with Provincial Regulations, please, apply for the civil license to marry within 3 month prior to your prospective wedding date. Once the license obtained, please, give it immediately to the celebrant Priest. (The license is contained in a large self-addressed prepaid envelope with a package of documents.)

4. AFFIDAVIT FOR LICENSE TO MARRY. Please, apply for ecclesiastical license to marry within 2 months prior (and no later than 15 days) to your prospective wedding date by filling an application. The affidavit can be obtained from the treasurer of our parish upon paying all required fees both by you and the Sponsor. This application (affidavit) must be filled and signed in the presence of a celebrant Priest.

ADDITIONAL

(for previously married and/or widowed only)

5. SUPPLEMENTARY RECORD FORM # 165. Please, fill this supplementary application.

6. COURT DIVORCE CERTIFICATE (if applicable). The Priest must see the original Absolute Divorce Decree.

7. CHURCH DIVORCE CERTIFICATE (if applicable). Please, provide an original Ecclesiastical Divorce Certificate. The Civil Court Divorce is not sufficient if you were previously married in the Orthodox Church. If you do not have Church Divorce, please, apply immediately through your Parish Priest.

and/or

8. DEATH CERTIFICATE (if your former spouse is deceased). Please, provide an original Ecclesiastical Death Certificate of your former Orthodox spouse. If your deceased spouse was not Orthodox, please, provide an original Funeral Home/Coroner's Certificate.

IMPORTANT: The Wedding is considered booked only after:

1. All required certificates are presented to the celebrant Priest well in advance,
2. All mandatory fees are fully paid upfront to our Community and
3. The date is confirmed with the celebrant Priest. Note, a mere confirmation of a Wedding date with a Priest or booking of our Banquet Hall does not mean you have booked your wedding ceremony.
4. If you would like to invite an Orthodox guest-priest to co-celebrate the Wedding, both he and you must contact our Parish Priest first.