

**PARISH MINISTRY ASSOCIATE PROGRAM
Weddings Authorization Request**

The Policy on PMA's Solemnizing Marriages

Assigned PMAs may be permitted to solemnize marriages, subject to the following requirements being met:

1. The right is reserved only to those PMAs currently authorized to serve in a pastoral leadership capacity (i.e. assigned by the bishop to serve a congregation in place of a pastor for regular or transitional ministry) or in the role of pastoral staff in a multiple-point parish with multiple ministerial staff (i.e. not simply being on staff in a congregation, even if that involves worship leadership).
2. The right is reserved (as clearly stated in the Bishops' Relational Agreement) exclusively to the congregation where the PMA is assigned, with the congregation's concurrence, only for members of that congregation.
3. The right is reserved only to those PMAs who have received preparation and whose authorization from the bishop specifically includes this right (as is the case with presiding at funerals).
4. Preparation would include instruction in premarital counseling (Prepare/Enrich is the only curriculum approved by PMA Steering Committee), basic law regarding marriage, and worship planning for weddings.
5. The right is restricted to the period and location covered by the authorization (i.e., if the PMA's assignment and/or authorization ends, so does the right to preside at marriages).
6. PMAs who violate the restrictions are liable not only to ecclesial discipline (which will likely include revocation of certification) but to civil prosecution and litigation.

PMA's Name: _____

Parish Assignment
Congregation: _____

Council President: _____

Mailing Address: _____

The Council of the above-named congregation requests authorization for our assigned PMA to solemnize marriages, in accord with the terms named above.

Signature of Council President

Date

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Nebraska Synod, ELCA

As the PMA assigned to serve this congregation, I am requesting authorization to solemnize marriages, will abide by the terms named above, and herewith submit the required documents:

1. A copy of my certificate of completion for facilitator's training from Prepare/Enrich
2. The signed continuing education report for the follow-up workshop with an ELCA pastor.

Signature of PMA

Date

There are two ways to submit this request form and your documentation:

Email to: PMAauthorization@nebraskasynod.org

Mail to: PMA Office
PO Box 1462
North Platte, NE 69103-1462

10 April 2018

For PMA Administrator, Carol Mapa, and Diane Harpster, Omaha Office

1. *Eligibility for authorization for weddings will be determined by the PMA Office, the same as for funerals.*
2. *PMA's will send the required forms and documentation to the PMA Office.*
3. *The request will be approved or denied, that decision communicated to the PMA by letter from the PMA Office, and copied to the council president and Diane Harpster.*
4. *When it has been determined that the PMA is eligible for authorization, Diane will include authorization for weddings in subsequent assignment letters from the bishop.*
5. *When the status of an assigned PMA changes, the PMA Office and Omaha Office will let each other know.*