

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Handout 3-A

## Diriment Impediments to Marriage

Cut out the strips on the dotted line, including the boldface titles.



Diriment Impediment	Description
<b>Impotence</b>	A person who is unable to consummate the marriage through the sexual act is not free to marry. This is not the same as sterility.
<b>Prior marriage</b>	If a person is married, and the marriage has not been declared null, then that person is not free to marry.
<b>Consanguinity</b>	Direct line (father-daughter) and “up to the fourth degree consanguinity” (first cousins) blood relations cannot marry.
<b>Conjucide</b>	A person who has killed a spouse so as to be free to marry another may not marry without permission from the pope.
<b>Holy Orders</b>	Ordained people cannot move from their present state of life without going through the process of laicization, and they must have specific permission to marry from the pope.
<b>Perpetual vow of chastity</b>	A person who has taken a perpetual vow of chastity is not free to marry without papal permission and release from the vow.
<b>Age</b>	The Church has set the minimum age for marriage as sixteen for males and fourteen for females; however, most dioceses use the legal state requirements as the minimum age.
<b>Affinity</b>	Those who are related by marriage cannot marry each other. Thus, an uncle-by-marriage cannot marry his niece.
<b>Disparity of cult</b>	A Catholic cannot marry a non-Christian without an express dispensation.
<b>Abduction</b>	If an intended spouse is abducted by the other intended spouse, this impedes the marriage from validly occurring.
<b>Adoption</b>	If persons are related through adoption they cannot validly be married.
<b>Public propriety</b>	A person cannot marry a first-degree relation of a previous spouse, such as the mother of a previous spouse.