



# MARRIAGE EDUCATION FACILITATOR APPLICATION FORM 2025

The training programme :  
a Special Purpose Award Validated by: The Pontifical University,  
St Patrick's College Maynooth, Co Kildare and is designed  
specifically to train participants as Marriage Preparation Programme  
facilitators for Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode/Eircode \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (**Please note:** all correspondence will be sent via email)

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Local Accord Centre: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how you heard about this year's recruitment, social media, local advertising, parish bulletin,  
other? \_\_\_\_\_

## **ACCORD MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowering people  
Fostering Relationships  
Caring for Couples facing  
the Challenges of Christian Marriage.

*This Document is PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL TO ACCORD CLG*

## Education Details:

Briefly outline relevant studies and qualifications obtained:

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1. Have you previously applied for training with ACCORD? YES  NO   
*(Please tick the appropriate box)*
  
2. If yes, what year? \_\_\_\_\_ What service? Counselling  Education
  
3. What was the outcome? Selected  Not Selected
  
4. Are you currently involved in any community or voluntary work? YES  NO   
*(If so, please specify)*

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5. Do you have PowerPoint Skills? YES  NO
  
6. Do you have basic computer skills? YES  NO
  
7. Have you used zoom video conferencing? YES  NO
  
8. Do you have presentation/facilitation skills? YES  NO
  
9. Have you experience of managing group activities and discussions (please outline)

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## Suitability to become a Facilitator with ACCORD CLG:

Have the ability to convey a positive attitude to Catholic Marriage.

Have an openness and commitment to working as a volunteer within a Catholic organisation.

Relate easily to people and are able to be part of a team.

Are sensitive, warm, caring and accepting.

- ◆ Currently Sacramentally married and living together with your spouse YES  NO
- ◆ A Single individual, unmarried lay person who understands and accepts the teaching of the Catholic Church on sacramental marriage - YES  NO
- ◆ A priest and/or a permanent deacon who is in good standing with his diocese; YES  NO
- ◆ A member of a religious congregation who is in good standing with his/her religious congregation; YES  NO
- ◆ A widow/widower who was sacramentally married YES  NO
- ◆ A person granted an annulment without a prohibition - a vetitum\*- to marry in the Catholic Church YES  NO

\*Re-marriage prohibited under the canon law of the Catholic Church, a vetitum

In applying to become a Marriage Education facilitator with ACCORD, a person has to be able and willing to take on the following commitments.:

1. Attend a **Selection Conference**
2. Following selection, successful applicants are invited to undertake training as Marriage Education Facilitators:
  - A) Attend seven workshops on the ACCORD CLG Marriage Education Training Programme
  - B) Gain practical experience by working with an experience facilitator team on a number of Marriage Preparation Programmes during the training year
  - C) Become a member of a designated local ACCORD Centre and take part in **three** programmes as part of a team, following successful completion of the training programme and prior to graduation.
3. **Graduation** Autumn 2027

**Please note:** All correspondence will be via email.

it is necessary to have PowerPoint and basic computer skills.

Trainees will be evaluated by continuous assessment throughout the training programme

## MEMBERSHIP OF ACCORD CLG

Membership of ACCORD CLG (following Graduation) involves the following commitments:

- A) Have the clear aspiration of achieving a specified agreed number of Marriage Preparation Programmes in a calendar year as agreed by the Centre Committee - ACCORD Policy—ME/03/2013 (6.2)
- B) Following Graduation a commitment of three years to your Centre is a requirement.
- C) Full participation in the monthly meeting of the local Accord Centre
- D) Supervision/Care & Support in accordance with ACCORD Policy SV/09/2013
- E) CPD annually in accordance with ACCORD Policy—GEN/CPD/Oct 2013

### **Attendance:**

It is essential that trainees attend **ALL** elements of the training programme

In the event of a trainee missing any aspects of the training, it will be decided in conjunction with the trainers, if the trainee will progress with the training process. Trainees will be on probation until graduation.

The local Centre through which each applicant applies will be responsible for the costs relating to Selection Conference and Training of each applicant. Travel expenses will not be paid during training. Following graduation facilitators are required to sign an Employee Contract or a Volunteer Agreement. All details will be discussed with the relevant Centre Chairperson on becoming a centre member.

**Please state briefly your reasons for applying to become a marriage preparation facilitator with Accord:**

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**Please state your understanding of the benefits of attending a Marriage Preparation Programme in preparation for Sacramental Marriage in the Catholic Church.**

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ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service is an agency of the Catholic Church providing a nationwide service to couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. ACCORD is committed to providing a quality service. Personnel are professionally trained to facilitate Marriage Preparation programmes on behalf of Accord. ACCORD serves the pastoral needs of couples at different stages in their relationship.

- \* **Preparation for Marriage** in a Christian context focuses on the essential components which foster a good couple and family relationship:

ACCORD recognises that the couples who attend Marriage Preparation are on a shared journey which has supported the growth of their couple relationship to the point where they now feel ready to present themselves for the Sacrament of Marriage, and to begin life as a married couple within the setting of their Parish Community.

The Marriage Preparation Programme provides a valuable opportunity for couples to focus on the current strength of their relationship, and to identify the key elements they are handling well, and the areas that will benefit from further development.

The programme design centres on regular time allocations for personal noting, followed by couple time when ideas and opinions are shared and discussed in confidence.

ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service conforms with the Criteria for Programmes of Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage Approved by the Irish Episcopal Conference (June 2010)

**Accord Couple and Relationship Counselling Service:**

ACCORD CLG also offers a professional counselling service which facilitates couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and endeavour to resolve difficulties in their marriage and relationships in a confidential, sensitive, respectful and non judgemental setting.

Facilitators will not offer counselling to participants on a marriage preparation programme but will share information regarding the Accord counselling service.

ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service wishes that all prospective candidates are familiar with the Mission Statement of Accord, which is on the cover page of this application form, so that they are fully aware of the ethos out of which the Accord Organisation works.

Please give the name & contact information for **two** people (not related to you) who ACCORD CLG may contact for references on your behalf. Referees will not be contacted until places offered on a training programme are formally accepted by the candidate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode/Eircode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode/Eircode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that all the above statements and information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misstatement or omission of facts constitute grounds for non-selection or release. I hereby give permission for contact to be made with all relevant persons.

**Candidate's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return it to: [marriagepreparation@accord.ie](mailto:marriagepreparation@accord.ie) or by post to:

*Marriage Preparation,  
ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service, Columba Centre,  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare*

**Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 2nd May 2025**

