

# MEMO

**To: Bishop Andonios, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese**

**From: Bishop Sevastianos Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod**

**Date: June 6, 2018**

**Re: Decisions of the Holy Eparchial Synod relevant to the Chancellory**

1. The Synod decided that the letter for “freedom to marry” (Πιστοποιητικό Έλευτερογαμίας), is not necessary in cases where the wedding sacrament takes place in another Metropolis besides the one where the candidates reside since initially they fill out the application for an ecclesiastical license at their local parish and their priest knows them, according to the recent protocol Synod for weddings taking place in another Metropolis. In cases where the priest does not know the candidates then the letter for “freedom to marry” (Πιστοποιητικό Έλευτερογαμίας) is necessary.
2. On another note, the Synod decided sometime in the past that the restriction of weddings taking place on Major Feastdays is no longer valid based on canonical ground. It is believed that the restriction might have been placed in the past for pastoral considerations. Therefore henceforth it should be deleted from the Yearbook that weddings cannot take place on Pentecost and Major Feastdays and just leave that celebration of weddings are prohibited on fasting days.

Please communicate the above decisions to the Chancellors of each Metropolis and their Registry Departments.