

[Help](#)

Code of Canon Law

[IntraText - Text](#)

- BOOK II. THE PEOPLE OF GOD LIBER II. DE POPULO DEI
 - PART I. THE CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL (Cann. 204 - 207)
 - TITLE III. SACRED MINISTERS OR CLERICS (Cann. 232 - 293)
 - CHAPTER IV. LOSS OF THE CLERICAL STATE

[Previous](#) - [Next](#)

[Click here to show the links to concordance](#)

CHAPTER IV.

LOSS OF THE CLERICAL STATE

Can. 290 Once validly received, sacred ordination never becomes invalid. A cleric, nevertheless, loses the clerical state:

- 1/ by a judicial sentence or administrative decree, which declares the invalidity of sacred ordination;
- 2/ by a judicial sentence or administrative decree, which declares the invalidity of sacred ordination;
- 3/ by rescript of the Apostolic See which grants it to deacons only for grave causes and to presbyters only for most grave causes.

Can. 291 Apart from the case mentioned in [⇒](#) can. 290, n. 1, loss of the clerical state does not entail a dispensation from the obligation of celibacy, which only the Roman Pontiff grants.

Can. 292 A cleric who loses the clerical state according to the norm of law loses with it the rights proper to the clerical state and is no longer bound by any obligations of the clerical state, without prejudice to the prescript of [⇒](#) can. 291. He is prohibited from exercising the power of orders, without prejudice to the prescript of [⇒](#) can. 976. By the loss of the clerical state, he is deprived of all offices, functions, and any delegated power.

Can. 293 A cleric who loses the clerical state cannot be enrolled among clerics again except through a rescript of the Apostolic See.

[Previous](#) - [Next](#)

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