REQUEST FOR TRIBUNAL STUDY BRIEFER PROCESS

THE METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON
66 BROOKS DRIVE, BRAINTREE, MA 02184-3839
TELEPHONE (617) 746-5900
FAX (617) 779-4566
WWW.BOSTONCATHOLIC.ORG/TRIBUNAL

JV ______
DV ______
Prot. No. __________
Dear Petitioner,

The “Briefer Process” is an abbreviated marriage nullity request created by Pope Francis in 2015 for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. It allows for a more streamlined process -- compared to the “Ordinary Process” -- when grounds of marriage nullity are obvious and provable as defined by the Code of Canon Law.

If you are reading this letter, we hope it means that you have already met with a Sponsor (priest, deacon or certified pastoral associate) and together you have discussed your particular marital history in addition to what it means to have a marriage declared null in the Roman Catholic Church. Having had that meeting, you and your Sponsor have decided to explore this briefer process as the best way to move forward. Most Petitioners would naturally prefer something called “briefer,” especially for something as personal as this, but it may not apply in every case. Since it is a judicial process, the briefer process can only be used when all of the following conditions exist:

- **The reason for the nullity of my marriage is clear, simple and obvious in accord with Canon Law** (e.g. the marriage was for immigration purposes only; there was a pregnancy prior to marriage; the marriage only lasted a few months; an essential element of marriage was intentionally left out such as fidelity or permanence)

- The Respondent (the other party in the marriage or simply, your ex-spouse) is given access to the Libellus (petition) that you will complete with your Sponsor and understands that you are asking that the marriage be declared null. **The Respondent must be willing to participate by signing this form or at least sign to the effect that he/she will not object to this particular process.**

- **The facts of your marital history are corroborated either by detailed witness testimony or through authentic documents.**

If all three of the above conditions are not possible you cannot utilize this briefer process and should submit a Request for Tribunal Study for the ordinary process instead. **Filing for the briefer process without all three conditions in place will only delay your case because it will be rejected and subsequently returned to you and your Sponsor.**

Therefore, if you and your sponsor feel that your case does qualify for the Briefer Process, such that all three of the factors above apply, and understanding that the Metropolitan Tribunal has the final say as to what qualifies, continue with this Request for Tribunal Study – Briefer Process.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Staff of the Metropolitan Tribunal
The Parties to the Marriage

The Petitioner (The one applying)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Middle name</th>
<th>(Maiden name)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Home mailing address | City | State | ZIP Code

Primary telephone number ________________________ ☐ cell ☐ home ☐ work
Alternative telephone number ____________________ ☐ cell ☐ home ☐ work
Where best to leave a confidential message? __________________________
E-mail address ____________________________
Date and place of birth ____________________________
What was your religion at the time of the marriage? __________________________
Are you baptized?* Date/Denomination __________________________
Church/Address ____________________________
Are you enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults currently? ☐ YES ☐ NO

* If you were baptized outside of the USA, please provide a copy of your baptism record.

The Respondent (The other party)

This section MUST be completed in order to proceed with this process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Middle name</th>
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Home mailing address | City | State | ZIP Code

Primary telephone number ________________________ ☐ cell ☐ home ☐ work
Alternative telephone number ____________________ ☐ cell ☐ home ☐ work
Where best to leave a confidential message? __________________________
E-mail address ____________________________
Date and place of birth ____________________________
What was his/her religion at the time of the marriage? __________________________
Was he/she baptized? Date/Denomination __________________________
Church/Address ____________________________
Is he/she enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults? YES ☐ NO ☐ UNKN ☐
The Marriage

Check all that apply:

☐ The marriage was in the Archdiocese of Boston
☐ The Petitioner currently lives in the Archdiocese of Boston
☐ The Respondent currently lives in the Archdiocese of Boston
☐ The witnesses essential to prove this case reside in the Archdiocese of Boston

Date of Marriage __________ Place of Marriage ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________

Were you married by?  ☐ A Catholic bishop/priest/deacon
☐ Other religious official
☐ Judge, Justice of the Peace
☐ Other __________________________

If the wedding took place apart from a Catholic ceremony without the permission of the Catholic Church, was it later celebrated (con-validated) in the Catholic Church? ☐ YES ☐ NO If yes, provide details:
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Was this the Petitioner’s first Marriage? ☐ YES ☐ NO
If this was not the Petitioner’s first marriage, provide more detail:
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Was this the Respondent’s first Marriage? ☐ YES ☐ NO
If this was not the Respondent’s first marriage, provide more detail:
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Age of Petitioner at the time of the marriage? _____ The Respondent? _____
How long did the couple live together after marriage? __________________________
Was there an official separation and how long? _________________________________
When was the civil Divorce? ____________ (Copy of Final Decree required.)
How many children were born of this union? _____
Has this case ever been presented to another Tribunal? ☐ YES ☐ NO
If yes, provide details ________________________________
LIBELLUS
(The Official Petition)

I, __________________, the Petitioner in this case, before God, swear that all the answers in the following Libellus are the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Signature __________________________ Date ____________.

In accord with Canon Law I hereby request that the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Boston present this case to the Archbishop of Boston, utilizing the Briefer Process.

The reasons (clear, simple and obvious) for the nullity of my marriage to _____________________________ from its very beginning are:

(Please use back side if more space is needed)
This is how I can prove the facts above; e.g. witnesses that will corroborate the facts or through documentation, etc. Provide appropriate addresses for witnesses or submit notarized statements from your witnesses. Please do not submit medical documents with this application, simply list what you could provide because these require a separate release if they are to be used in the process.

Petitioner’s Signature___________________________ Date ______________

Petitioner’s Address_____________________________________________________________________

Signature of Sponsor _________________________ Date ______________
Sponsor’s Name ________________________________________________________________
Parish Name _______________________________________________________________________
Parish Address _________________________________________________________________
Sponsor’s contact phone _____________________________

Parish Seal DIGITAL SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
These two pages are filled out by the Respondent only:

Dear Respondent,

The Petitioner, your ex-spouse, has chosen to petition the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Boston to have your marriage declared null. In addition he/she is petitioning the Tribunal using the “Briefer Process”; in other words, the Petitioner is claiming that the facts in this case are so obvious that he/she elects to forgo the normal “Ordinary Process.” However, in some cases, the Tribunal may find it necessary to proceed with the Ordinary Process. The Petitioner’s reasoning is explained in a petition which in Canon Law is referred to as the Libellus. You are asked to read the Libellus and then to fill out this section and, if you so choose, add any signed and dated statement. If you do not agree to use the Briefer Process the Tribunal will honor your request and suggest that the Petitioner file in the Ordinary Process in which you will have opportunity to participate more fully.

**PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THREE OPTIONS:**

I, ____________________________, the Respondent in this case, AGREE with the facts as presented in the Libellus above and DO NOT OBJECT to the Petitioner’s attempt to declare our marriage null.

Respondent’s signature _______________________________ Date _____________

Respondent’s address ____________________________________________

Witness' signature (priest, deacon, certified pastoral associate or notary public)

_______________________________________________ Date ________________

_________________________________________________________

I, ____________________________, the Respondent in this case, ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROCESS and do not want to participate further.

Respondent’s signature _______________________________ Date _____________

Respondent’s address ____________________________________________

Witness' signature (priest, deacon, certified pastoral associate or notary public)

_______________________________________________ Date ________________

DIGITAL SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
I, _______________________, the Respondent in this case, OBJECT to the Petitioner’s use of the Briefer Process and understand that the process will continue utilizing the Ordinary Process and that I will be contacted again.

Respondent’s signature ______________________ Date __________

Respondent’s address _______________________________________

Witness' signature (priest, deacon, certified pastoral associate or notary public) __________________________ Date __________

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Please feel free to submit any additions or corrections to the Libellus.

I, _______________________, having read the Libellus, wish to state to the Tribunal the following:

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature of the Respondent __________________________ Date __________

DIGITAL SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
Optional Request for Tribunal to Contact Respondent

If the Petitioner would prefer that the Tribunal make all contact with the Respondent, the Tribunal will do so. However, the Petitioner must know that without the Respondent’s participation, such that he/she reads the Libellus and signs the enclosed form, the case must be resubmitted using the forms for the Ordinary Process.

If you wish the Tribunal to make all contact with the Respondent, please sign the following:

I, _____________________________, ask the Metropolitan Tribunal of Boston to contact my former spouse, ___________________________. I understand that he/she will read the Libellus as submitted. To the best of my knowledge the best way to reach the Respondent is at the following address:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

I also understand that if the Respondent cannot be reached or objects to the process, the Tribunal cannot process this case utilizing the Briefer Process and, therefore, I will need to resubmit a Request for Tribunal Study – Ordinary Process.

______________________________________________________________________________
Petitioner’s Signature

______________________________________________________________________________
Date

______________________________________________________________________________
Sponsor’s Signature

______________________________________________________________________________
Date

DIGITAL SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
Documentation Checklist

Dear Sponsor,

Please note that all of the items listed below are REQUIRED, unless noted otherwise, and must be submitted at the time of submission to the Tribunal, otherwise, the Request will be returned to you for completion.

Check list of REQUIRED ITEMS for Briefer Process:

☐ Application form
☐ Divorce Absolute Decree
☐ Civil Marriage Certificate
☐ Church Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
☐ Signature of Petitioner
☐ Signature of Respondent (or request for Tribunal to seek)
☐ Signature of Sponsor
☐ Witnesses who can corroborate Libellus
☐ Documentary evidence
☐ Baptism certificate if baptized outside of the USA