

**PETITION FOR A TRIBUNAL STUDY
FOR A DECLARATION OF
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE**

ORDINARY PROCESS

**THE METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON**

REVISED AND EFFECTIVE 9/2020



Rev. 9/2020

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For Office Use Only

<hr/> Protocol Number

**PETITION FOR NULLITY OF MARRIAGE
REQUEST FOR TRIBUNAL STUDY**

TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE SPONSOR WITH THE PETITIONER

THE PETITIONER

(Person who presents the request)

Present Name:

Maiden Name:

Present Address:

THE RESPONDENT

(The other party/ex-spouse)

Present Name:

Maiden Name:

Present Address: **REQUIRED FOR
SUBMISSION**

Dear Petitioner:

In presenting a petition for a declaration of nullity -- commonly called an annulment -- you are requesting that the Catholic Church evaluate your marriage in order to determine its validity/invalidity and thus clarify your marital status. ***This process is for spiritual and ecclesiastical purposes only, consequently, it has no civil law effects. Any children born of this marriage remain, as they have been, the legitimate offspring of the union.***

Out of respect for the dignity of persons and the sacred nature of marriage, Church tribunals are required to approach all marriages with the presumption that they are valid. There are numerous reasons why this presumption can be overturned, but decisions of this type are not arbitrary.

Declarations of nullity are not favors given to innocent or deserving parties; they are objective findings about the validity of a union according to Church law, as best as any human judge can determine. To grant a declaration of nullity, the judges must have moral certitude, based on the evidence brought forward, that the marriage in question was missing an essential element necessary for validity. In the absence of such certitude, the judges must rule in the negative, meaning that the nullity of the marriage has not been proven.

In this process, a priest, deacon or certified pastoral associate must work with you as your case sponsor, to provide information and support. We invite you and your case sponsor to pray for God's assistance in preparing your responses to the questions about your marriage. Your willingness to share personal realities about yourself, the Respondent, and your relationship will help the judge reach an accurate decision.

Sometimes, there is a tendency not to reveal the whole truth, to avoid making anyone "look bad." The truth may not always be complimentary to a person, but the Tribunal still needs to know the complete truth, offered in a spirit of charity. This process does not seek to place blame or find fault, but rather to understand the marriage in question.

Moreover, you will be offered an opportunity to review the evidence collected, as will the Respondent, in accord with the norms provided in Church law. Otherwise the information revealed in this process is kept confidential, unless it reveals that a vulnerable person (e.g., the elderly, handicapped or a minor child) is in immediate danger. In such a case, the Tribunal must alert the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

We realize that participating in this process can be a difficult, painful experience because of the memories it asks you to recall. However, many people have found it to be quite helpful in their personal growth and spiritual life, since it can bring much needed closure and insight into other relationships.

Understandably, you may be eager for a final decision. However, it is impossible to predict how long any individual case will take, since each is unique. In addition, if the circumstances causing the invalidity of the marriage so indicate, the Tribunal *may require that one or both parties seek professional counseling before any subsequent marriage* in the Catholic Church is permitted.

The Tribunal looks forward to being of assistance to you in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact our Advocate for Petitioners at 617-746-5900, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Tribunal Staff of the Archdiocese of Boston

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

This Tribunal Study Form is intended to help you, the Petitioner, to present information to the Tribunal. The information submitted will be used to determine if there is a canonical basis for a declaration of nullity. Therefore, the information you provide is critically important, and we ask you to be as complete as possible in your responses.

No case will be accepted without the signature of a Sponsor. Please contact your local parish and have a priest, deacon or certified pastoral associate act as Sponsor and help you to prepare this Study. (You may also use a Sponsor from another parish or religious community if he/she is willing to work with you.)

By law, the Tribunal is competent to accept the case if your wedding took place in the territory of the Archdiocese of Boston; or, if you or the other party to the case, known as the Respondent, currently live in the territory of the Archdiocese of Boston.

There are different types of processes. Some of them are reserved to the Pope who is the only one who can dissolve the marriage. Others may be determined by the Bishop or by the Tribunal. Until recently, most of the processes not reserved to the Pope were handled through ordinary proceedings by the Tribunal and, therefore, known as the **Ordinary Process** which this document concerns. His Holiness, Pope Francis I, on December 8, 2015, promulgated the *motu proprio Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus*, introducing new laws which amended part of marriage procedural law. A briefer or abbreviated process, now referred to as the **Briefer or Bishop's Process**, was subsequently created and is used where, given the obviousness of the facts, manifest exists. This process should not be used simply because the facts may seem to be easily proven or because people want to plan a wedding. Please refer to the Petition for the Briefer Process for more details and consult with your Sponsor to see whether your case would qualify for a *briefer* process or should be treated in the *ordinary* process. **Note that the Tribunal reserves the final decision whether your case qualifies or not for the Briefer Process. If your case does not qualify for this process, it will be treated in the Ordinary Process.**

Since marriage involves two people and the decision of the Tribunal will impact both, Church law requires the Tribunal to invite the participation of the Respondent. Please take in account that, as is mandatory by law, the Tribunal will formally contact your ex-spouse. Thus, you, as Petitioner, **must** provide the current and complete address of the other party. Should this prove to be difficult or impossible, you are asked to complete the section **Proof of Diligent Search to Locate the Respondent** found later in this Study.

It is often beneficial if the petitioning party informs the other party about the intention to submit the request. Informing the other party, even before filing the case, can help him/her understand in advance the reason for the process and not misinterpret the scope of this presentation. We suggest a simple telephone call, email or text if you are in a good/civil relationship with your ex-spouse. NEVER ask a family member to deliver the message.

If you have a serious concern about the Respondent being contacted -- such as an active restraining order -- please speak with your Sponsor. This simply may not be the right time to submit this Study.

Valid documents/proofs are necessary for this study. You as Petitioner must also produce the necessary documents, proofs and witnesses at the proper time, as requested by the Tribunal. A list of these documents is contained in this Study.

There is no fee to submit this Study. However, if the Judge(s) consider necessary the intervention of a Court Expert as a means of proof, your cooperation will be necessary to complete the evaluation and you will have to assume the cost of the Court Expert. Other charges may be incurred during this Study which will be sufficiently communicated to you but there is NO fee to submit this study. The actual cost for this Study will be detailed in subsequent mailings with a request for an offering; however, you are under no obligation to make payment.

PETITION FOR A DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

By my signature below, I request the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Boston to evaluate my marriage to my former spouse, _____, in order that it be declared null due to a defect of consent, rather than a defect of form or the existence of a diriment impediment.

I affirm that the testimony offered in this presentation is the truth and corresponds to the facts as they had occurred;

I agree to produce the necessary documents, proofs and witnesses at the proper time, as requested by the Tribunal;

I understand that the other party will be cited, and that this information will be shown to him/her; and by my signature below;

I indicate my understanding that neither the Tribunal nor anyone else can guarantee an affirmative decision or give a specific time frame for the completion of my case.

I also agree that no wedding may be scheduled unless -- and until I have received -- a final declaration of nullity of the marriage under evaluation and that I am canonically free to marry in the Catholic Church.

Signature of Petitioner

Signature of Sponsor

Printed Name of Petitioner

Printed Name of Sponsor

Date: _____ Sponsor Telephone Number: _____

Parish Name: _____

THE TRIBUNAL STUDY - PART I

THE PETITIONER (YOU)

Last name First name Middle name Maiden name, if applicable

Home and Mailing Address:

(H) _____

(M) _____

Is your home address a permanent address? If not, please explain:

Catholic diocese in which your home address is located: _____

Home phone number _____ Cell phone number _____

Work phone number _____ Nature of employment _____

What is your preferred method of contact by phone? Home ___ Work ___ Cell ___

Where can a confidential message be left for you? Home ___ Work ___ Cell ___

E-mail address _____

Date & Place of Birth _____

Religion practiced at time of wedding _____

Religion presently practiced _____

Baptism Information, if applicable - *date of baptism, name and address of church, and denomination**

****If you were baptized in a country other than the U.S., please provide a copy of the baptismal record.***

Are you enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) now? YES ___ NO ___

Was this union your first marriage (civil or religious)? YES ___ NO ___

Any prior or subsequent marriage(s) to the one being studied?

Please give details about any other marriage(s) (civil or church) that you may have had – do not include the marriage for this Request:

THE RESPONDENT (YOUR EX-SPOUSE)

Last name First name Middle name Maiden name, if applicable

You **MUST** provide the current and complete address of the other party. Should this prove to be difficult or impossible, please complete the section **Proof of Diligent Search to Locate the Respondent** which starts on the next page. **The Request risks being rejected without a valid address.**

Home and Mailing Address:

(H) _____

(M) _____

Is the home address a permanent address? If not, please explain:

Catholic diocese in which the home address is located: _____

Home phone number _____ Cell phone number _____

Work phone number _____ Nature of employment _____

What is his/her preferred method of contact by phone? Home ___ Work ___ Cell ___

Where can a confidential message be left? Home ___ Work ___ Cell ___

E-mail address _____

Date & Place of Birth _____

Religion practiced at time of wedding _____

Religion presently practiced _____

Baptism Information, if applicable - *date of baptism, name and address of church, and denomination**

****If he/she was baptized in a country other than the U.S., please provide a copy of the baptismal record if possible.***

Is he/she enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) now? YES ___ NO ___

Was this union his/her first marriage (civil or religious)? YES ___ NO ___

Any prior or subsequent marriage(s) to the one being studied?

If yes, please explain if possible: _____

PROOF OF DILIGENT SEARCH TO LOCATE THE RESPONDENT

In any case presented to this Tribunal, Church law requires that the other party to the marriage be given adequate notice of the pending action. Your answers on this form will assist the Tribunal in determining that a reasonable attempt to find the Respondent has been made so that we can continue with your case. **NO FURTHER ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON YOUR PETITION UNTIL WE HAVE THIS INFORMATION ON FILE.**

Name of Respondent: _____

Have you tried contacting any of his/her relatives such parents, siblings, etc.? If yes, please list the names and addresses of any person(s) contacted for help in locating your ex-spouse:

What was the Respondent's last known address and/or place of employment? Give complete details such as the address, place of employment, telephone number(s) and/or email address:

Did you try locating the Respondent using his/her Social Security number or joint financial records? (credit cards, bank accounts, etc.)

If you have minor children, how is he/she exercising visitation rights and fulfilling other parental obligations? If adult children, explain why they could not provide you with an address?

Please list any on-line searches and/or paid searches you enlisted to locate the Respondent and attach a copy of the results or invoices:

I swear, under oath, that the above statements are true and correct

Signature of Petitioner _____ Date _____

Signature of Sponsor/Witness _____ Date _____

Please provide the name(s) and birth/adoption date for each child: _____

Length of time the Parties lived together after marriage (common life) _____

Month and Year the Parties were separated permanently _____

Who filed for the civil divorce? Petitioner ___ Respondent ___ Joint Petition ___

Date divorce declared Absolute/Final _____

Court & Place of Divorce _____

You must provide a FINAL divorce decree to the Tribunal with this questionnaire. If you were divorced in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts this document is entitled a Certificate of Divorce Absolute (CDA). A document entitled NISI, PETITION FOR, SEPARATION AGREEMENT or the like is NOT a FINAL divorce decree. However, if you divorced out of the country, the document might be entitled 'Sentence', 'Decree', or 'Decision' of Divorce. If you do not have a copy of your final divorce decree one may be secured from the court that granted your divorce. NO CASE MAY BE ACCEPTED BEFORE A FINAL DIVORCE DECREE IS GRANTED.

FUTURE MARRIAGE PLANS (*if applicable*):

Regarding the person you wish to marry in the Catholic Church, what is his/her name?

What is his/her religion? _____

Is he/she presently enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)? _____

What is his/her birth date? _____

Has this person ever been previously married? YES ___ NO ___ If so, is the spouse still living**? YES ___ NO ___ ****SPONSOR PLEASE CONFIRM THAT THE INTENDED IS FREE TO MARRY IF 'YES'**

When and how did you meet this person? _____

When did you and this person begin dating? _____

Have you contracted marriage in any form with this person? YES ___ NO ___

If YES, when and where? _____

Have any children been born of this relationship? _____

If you are presently in a canonically invalid marriage and wish to enter the Catholic Church, you may not complete the RCIA process whether through Baptism or Confirmation until and unless you receive a final declaration of nullity of your previous marriage.

WITNESSES

CHURCH LAW REQUIRES that allegations be proved not only by the statements of the Parties to the marriage but also by the testimony of reliable witnesses. Please list persons who have knowledge of your family background, childhood or marital situation and who would provide us with information. We suggest you include your parents, siblings and friends from courtship. **Children of this union may not ordinarily be witnesses, nor may the person you wish to marry in the Church provide testimony.** Please make every effort to include at least three witnesses. If it is possible, request cooperation from your witnesses. They will be contacted directly by the Tribunal. In order to respect their confidence, they are to mail their statements directly to our office (listing case name and protocol no.); they are not to forward them through you. We also recommend they keep a copy of their correspondence should the original be lost in the mail. You must give complete and current names and addresses.

NAME _____ Relationship _____
 Address _____
 City/State/ZIP/Country _____
 Year This Person Met You? _____ Year This Person Met Your Former Spouse? _____

NAME _____ Relationship _____
 Address _____
 City/State/ZIP/Country _____
 Year This Person Met You? _____ Year This Person Met Your Former Spouse? _____

NAME _____ Relationship _____
 Address _____
 City/State/ZIP/Country _____
 Year This Person Met You? _____ Year This Person Met Your Former Spouse? _____

NAME _____ Relationship _____
 Address _____
 City/State/ZIP/Country _____
 Year This Person Met You? _____ Year This Person Met Your Former Spouse? _____

List all counselors, psychologists and psychiatrists either of you saw before, during or after the marriage.

Name of Doctor/Counselor	Complete Address	Dates	Which Party
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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THE PERSONAL AND MARITAL HISTORY – PART II

The clearest and most efficient way for us to begin the study of the marriage, is to have this material presented as a typed or legibly printed document on only one side of each 8 1/2 by-11-inch sheet of paper used. Each marriage is different, so it is difficult to state a length for this statement. **Nevertheless, it is our experience that 12-20 pages, typed double-spaced should be enough.** If this presents an obstacle or extreme difficulty for you in written form, please speak with your Sponsor about the possibility of having a trusted family member or friend assist you in transcribing your thoughts to paper.

After you have completed your first draft, please return and meet with your Sponsor for a follow-up consultation before submitting your request. You should be prepared for the possibility that the sponsor may direct you to rewrite parts of the study so that it is more focused. Having this information from the beginning of the study is essential for the Tribunal Staff.

Please use the following statements/questions to develop an autobiographical essay. If you are more comfortable just answering each question one-by-one that is acceptable (please indicate clearly as you go). The purpose of this statement is to assist the Tribunal in determining if there is an enough basis to accept your request to pursue a declaration of nullity. The Tribunal's decision will be based upon the facts and concrete examples contained in this essay, as well as corroborative proof obtained through the testimony of witnesses. It is important that you attempt to address each of the statements/questions as fully as possible. Be specific about the chronology of events, stating clearly when important experiences occurred and offering examples when possible.

A. COURTSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE RESPONDENT

1. When you met the Respondent, what were the most important qualities you were looking for in a spouse? Why?
2. How and when did you meet the Respondent? What attracted you to each other initially? How would you describe each of your personalities at the time?
3. When you began dating, how often did you go out, and what did you do? Describe your communication with each other.
4. Did you engage in premarital sex and, if so, how soon in your courtship? To what extent did this impact your relationship?
5. Did you live with the Respondent prior to marriage? Whose idea was it and why? How did your families react to the decision to live together? How did living together impact your decision to marry?
6. Was there ever a pregnancy prior to marriage? If so, how did it impact your decision to marry?
7. After you began dating seriously, were there any separations? If so, why? What brought about reconciliation?
8. Who first brought up the topic of marriage and when? What was the other person's reaction? What was the reaction of family and friends?
9. Was there an engagement? Was the engagement ever cancelled or broken? If so, briefly explain the circumstances and what led to reconciliation.

10. At the time of your marriage, did either of you think “if this doesn’t work out, we can always get divorced”? If so, please explain.
11. Was there any indication that either of you thought lightly of fidelity prior to the marriage? For example, were either of you involved with anyone else during your courtship?
12. Did you discuss the issue of children while you were dating and/or engaged? What were your attitudes towards children at that time? If either or both of you were opposed to having children, was there openness to the possibility of changing one’s mind later?
13. Were there any conflicts prior to marriage related to careers, future goals and expectations, *etc.*? If so, please explain.
14. Describe any emotional, verbal, physical and/or sexual abuse during the courtship. (Although this might be a difficult question for you to respond to, if so, it is important for us to know how this has possibly impacted you.)
15. Was there a prenuptial agreement? If so, at whose initiative and why? If you have a copy, please submit it with your testimony; if not, please describe its contents to the best of your recollection.
16. In what ways did you and the Respondent share in planning of your wedding?
17. Did either of you express any second thoughts in the days leading up to the wedding? If so, to whom?
18. Did anyone express concerns or doubts to you during your courtship or engagement? How did you respond?

B. BACKGROUND OF THE PETITIONER

1. What were the nationalities of your parents, and where did you grow up (for example, in which country, in an urban area, in a rural area, *etc.*)? How would you describe your family’s social/economic standing?
2. Would you describe your childhood as a happy one? How? Why or why not?
3. Did your family move while you were growing up? If so, how often? How did this impact you?
4. Did work require either or both of your parents to be away from home very much? If so, please explain.
5. Describe the personalities of your parents and their relationship with each other. Was either parent dominant? If either or both are deceased, state when this occurred, under what circumstances (for example, accident, death after long illness, *etc.*), and how it has impacted you.
6. How would you describe your relationship with each of your parents?
7. If your parents divorced and/or a parent died, were there any remarriages? If so, please indicate how many and how being part of a blended family has affected you.
8. What was the religion of your parents? To what extent did they practice their religion, and how has this impacted your own religious practice?
9. How many siblings do you have, and where do you come in birth order? How would you describe your relationship with your siblings? Have any of your siblings been married more than once?

10. Describe the use of alcohol and/or drugs in your immediate family, and describe any problems you have had with gambling, alcohol, drug use, or criminal conduct.
11. Describe any serious medical problems you or members of your immediate family may have had in your childhood. Was mental health care ever provided to you or your immediate family members? If so, how has this impacted you?
12. Have you or anyone in your immediate family been the subject of emotional, verbal, physical or sexual abuse? (Although this might be a difficult question for you to respond to, if so, it is important for us to know how this has possibly impacted you or your family members.)
13. Were you a good student? If not, please explain. Indicate the highest level of education you have attained. Did you have problems learning or with socializing with your peers?
14. Describe your work experience briefly. If you have ever served in the military, please include this experience.
15. At what age did you begin dating? Were your dating relationships few or many? Were your dating relationships short-term or long-term? How did your family feel about you dating and the people you chose to date?
16. Were you ever involved in a serious relationship prior to meeting your former spouse? If so, when and why was it terminated?
17. How was the topic of sex treated in your family? How did you learn about sex?
18. Do you have close, long-term friends? If not, why?
19. What would you describe as the strong areas of your personality? What are the weak areas of your personality? Please provide an evaluation of the strong and weak areas of your personality – inferiority complex, sensitive to the needs of others, nervous, quick-tempered, moody, jealous, selfish, ungrateful, lie or cheat habitually, erratic and unpredictable behavior, judgment in everyday situations)
20. How well did your family background prepare you for marriage? Please explain.

C. BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENT

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.

1. What were the nationalities of his/her parents, and where did he/she grow up (for example, in which country, in an urban area, in a rural area, *etc.*)? How would you describe the family's social/economic standing?
2. Would you describe his/her childhood as a happy one? How? Why or why not?
3. Did the family move while growing up? If so, how often? How did this impact him/her?
4. Did work require either or both parents to be away from home very much? If so, please explain.
5. Describe the personalities of the parents and their relationship with each other. Was either parent dominant? If either or both are deceased, state when this occurred, under what circumstances (for example, accident, death after long illness, *etc.*), and how it may have impacted the Respondent.
6. How would you describe the relationship with each of his/her parents?

7. If the parents divorced and/or a parent died, were there any remarriages? If so, please indicate how many and how being part of a blended family may have affected your ex-spouse.
8. What was the religion of the parents/family? To what extent did they practice their religion, and how has this impacted the Respondent's religious practice?
9. How many siblings were there and where did your ex-spouse come in birth order? How would you describe the relationship with the siblings? Have any of the siblings been married more than once?
10. Describe the use of alcohol and/or drugs in the Respondent's immediate family and describe any problems they may have had with gambling, alcohol, drug use, or criminal conduct.
11. Describe any serious medical problems your ex-spouse or members of his/her immediate family may have had in their childhood. Was mental health care ever provided to your ex-spouse or his/her immediate family members? If so, how do you think this impacted him/her?
12. Are you aware if your ex-spouse or anyone in his/her immediate family has been the subject of emotional, verbal, physical or sexual abuse? (Although this might be a difficult question for you to respond to, if so, it is important for us to know how this has possibly impacted your ex-spouse or his/her family members.)
13. Was the Respondent a good student? If not, please explain. Indicate the highest level of education attained. Did he/she have problems learning or with socializing with peers?
14. Describe any work experience briefly. If your ex-spouse ever served in the military, please include this experience.
15. Are you aware at what age he/she begin dating? Were dating relationships few or many? Were dating relationships short-term or long-term? How did your ex-spouse's family feel about dating and the people that he/she chose to date?
16. Was your ex-spouse ever involved in a serious relationship prior to meeting you? If so, when and why was it terminated?
17. How was the topic of sex treated in the family? How did he/she learn about sex?
18. Does your ex-spouse have close, long-term friends? If not, why?
19. What would you describe as the strong areas of his/her personality? What are the weak areas of his/her personality? Please provide an evaluation of the strong and weak areas of his/her personality – inferiority complex, sensitive to the needs of others, nervous, quick-tempered, moody, jealous, selfish, ungrateful, lie or cheat habitually, erratic and unpredictable behavior, judgment in everyday situations)
20. How well did your ex-spouse's family background prepare him/her for marriage? Please explain.

D. WEDDING AND HONEYMOON

1. What was your attitude during the wedding day?
2. If you wrote your own wedding vows, what was the text?
3. Were there any unusual events during the wedding ceremony?
4. Did you or your spouse express hesitations about marrying anyone else on that day? If so, who was that person?
5. Did you have a honeymoon? If so, how long did it last? Was there any unusual incident during the honeymoon? If so, can you provide evidence of these incidents?

6. How did you feel during the honeymoon (i.e.: level of intimacy, emotional connection, communication, affection, etc.)? Were there any problems in these areas?

E. MARRIED LIFE

1. How were major decisions reached in your marriage? Describe your mutual ability to communicate.
2. Were you happy at the start of your married life? How did you and the Respondent demonstrate affection?
3. Describe your respective relationships with friends and family and how this may have impacted your marriage.
4. Describe your job responsibilities and how these may have impacted your marriage.
5. Describe where you resided during your marriage. Did you move frequently and, if so, why?
6. Was the use of drugs/alcohol by either or both parties an issue during the marriage?
7. Was gambling or financial irresponsibility evident during the marriage?
8. Describe any marital infidelities that you know to have occurred.
9. If you had children, how well have they been accepted and cared for by each of you? If you did not have children, why not?
10. If you agreed to postpone children, why and when was this decision made? Was it mutual?
11. Were contraceptives used in the marriage, and was this a mutual decision? If so, did you always use them?
12. Was the use of pornography by either or both of you a problem during the marriage? If so, please explain.
13. Describe any emotional, verbal, physical and/or sexual abuse during the marriage. (Although this might be a difficult question for you to respond to, if so, it is important for us to know how this has possibly impacted you.)
14. Describe when you first became aware of serious problems in your marriage. What were these problems? Were you aware of any of them before the wedding and, if so, why did you not consider them serious at that time, or why did you decide to marry despite them?
15. How many separations occurred during the marriage? When did it occur and how long did it last? Who initiated each?
16. What was the cause of the final separation, and by whom was it initiated?
17. Were there any attempts at reconciliation and, if so, by whom? Did any of you pursue counseling? If so, with what results?
18. Why do you think this marriage failed? **PLEASE BE SELF-REFLECTIVE AND AS REALISTIC AS POSSIBLE.**

F. CIVIL MARRIAGE INFORMATION (*if applicable*):

If you were civilly married before being married in the Catholic Church, please answer these additional questions:

1. Why did you and the Respondent choose to marry first outside of the Catholic Church?
2. Was the time between your civil wedding ceremony and your marriage in the Church a happy time or a troubled one? Please elaborate.

3. Why did you and the Respondent choose to marry in the Church at the time you did? Who suggested it first? Was there any opposition from family, *etc.*?
4. Please describe any discussion/preparation that took place with the priest/deacon in arranging your marriage in the Church.
5. At the Catholic ceremony, did both you and the Respondent believe that you were validly marrying for the first time, or did you believe that you were merely renewing your marriage promises? After the Catholic wedding, what date did you celebrate as your wedding anniversary?
6. After the Catholic ceremony, were you and the Respondent open to bringing children into your marriage?
7. Which problems, if any, in your marriage had begun to appear before the Catholic wedding ceremony? How did you feel in the relationship at the time?

CHECKLIST OF MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED BY SPONSOR AND PETITIONER

- _____ Application form
- _____ Personal Marital History
- _____ Respondent Address or c/o Address
- _____ Divorce Decree (CDA or sentence/decision of divorce)
- _____ Civil Marriage Certificate (if married civilly or in another religious tradition)
- _____ Church Marriage Certificate (if married outside US)
- _____ Witnesses / Counselors (if applicable): complete names and addresses
- _____ Signature and domicile of Petitioner and Sponsor

THE METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON



www.bostoncatholic.org/tribunal