

OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL
777 Forest Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106-3857
Telephone: 651-291-4466 Fax: 651-291-4467
Email: tribunal@archspm.org
Web: www.archspm.org/tribunal



ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

United in Faith, Hope and Love

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received _____ Jurisdiction _____ PR # _____ Info Complete _____ CRM _____

PETITIONER (You)

Current Name

First Middle Last

Birth/Maiden Name (if different than current name)

First Middle Last

Address _____

Preferred Phone # _____
 Cell Home Work

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____

Religion of Baptism _____

Name/Address of Church of Baptism _____

Petitioner's Age at Wedding _____

Religion at time of Wedding _____

Current Religion _____

RESPONDENT (Former Civil Spouse)

Current Name

First Middle Last

Birth/Maiden Name (if different than current name)

First Middle Last

Address _____

Preferred Phone # _____
 Cell Home Work

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____

Religion of Baptism _____

Name/Address of Church of Baptism _____

Respondent's Age at Wedding _____

Religion at time of Wedding _____

Current Religion _____

CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP

Date when courtship began _____ Was there a formal engagement? **Yes** **No** If Yes, Date _____

Were there any special circumstances present at the time of courtship or engagement (e.g., long distance relationship, premarital pregnancy, etc.)? _____

Date of wedding _____ Church or place of wedding _____ City, state _____

If either of you were Catholic at the time of the wedding and you did not marry in a Catholic Church, was a dispensation granted? **Yes** **No** If no, was the marriage ever blessed/validated in the Catholic Church? **Yes** **No**

If yes, name of Catholic Church, city, state _____

Number of children born/adopted in this marriage _____ Number of children currently under age 18 _____

Date of separation _____ Date of divorce _____ County, state, of divorce _____

Has either party ever previously sought a declaration of nullity for this marriage, whether before this tribunal or another tribunal? **Yes** **No** If yes, please indicate where and when _____

INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER MARRIAGES

Was this the only marriage for both you and the Respondent? **Yes** **No**

If no, please indicate any other marriages contracted by either party, whether before or after the marriage in question. If more space is needed, please include those marriages on a separate sheet. Include all marriages, religious or civil.

Party Involved in Other Marriage:

Petitioner (You) Respondent (Your Former Spouse)

Name of Spouse _____

Spouse's Religion of Baptism _____

Date of Wedding _____

Location (venue/city/state) _____

If either party was Catholic at the time of the wedding and the wedding was not in a Catholic Church, was a dispensation granted? **Yes** **No**

If no, was the marriage validated/blessed in the Catholic Church? **Yes** **No** If yes, where and when _____

Are these two still married? **Yes** **No**

If no, check all that apply:

Civil divorce - Date of divorce _____

Death of Spouse - Date of death _____

Catholic decree of nullity issued

Date issued _____ Diocese _____

Party Involved in Other Marriage:

Petitioner (You) Respondent (Your Former Spouse)

Name of Spouse _____

Spouse's Religion of Baptism _____

Date of Wedding _____

Location (venue/city/state) _____

If either party was Catholic at the time of the wedding and the wedding was not in a Catholic Church, was a dispensation granted? **Yes** **No**

If no, was the marriage validated/blessed in the Catholic Church? **Yes** **No** If yes, where and when _____

Are these two still married? **Yes** **No**

If no, check all that apply:

Civil divorce - Date of divorce _____

Death of Spouse - Date of death _____

Catholic decree of nullity issued

Date issued _____ Diocese _____

WITNESSES

The Church seeks information from both parties and from witnesses who can offer valuable insights and information pertaining to the marriage in question. Before submitting the names of these witnesses, the Petitioner is asked to verify the names and addresses of these people, and ensure their willingness to testify. The best witnesses are typically those who knew one or both parties prior to and at the time of the wedding (e.g., family, friends, members of the wedding party). ***This process requires at least two witnesses.*** Children born of the parties should not be listed as witnesses.

Witness 1*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone # _____
 Cell Home Work

Email _____

Relationship to Parties _____

Witness 2*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone # _____
 Cell Home Work

Email _____

Relationship to Parties _____

Witness 3

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone # _____
 Cell Home Work

Email _____

Relationship to Parties _____

Witness 4

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone # _____
 Cell Home Work

Email _____

Relationship to Parties _____

***You are required to name at least two witnesses.**

RIGHTS OF THE RESPONDENT

Both parties have a natural right to know about and participate in this investigation. Catholic Church law requires the Tribunal to contact the Respondent and encourage him/her to participate in the process. The Petitioner is required to provide the Tribunal with the Respondent's current mailing address and contact information.

Have you advised your prior spouse that you are requesting this investigation? **Yes** **No**

If no, why not? _____

Is your prior spouse willing to share his/her insights with the Tribunal? **Yes** **No** **Unknown**

If no, why not? _____

PETITIONER'S CURRENT INTENTIONS

I have no current plans to enter marriage **OR** Name of intended spouse _____

Religion of intended spouse _____

Has he/she ever been previously married? **Yes** * **No**

**If yes, please note that this other person is not free to marry in the Catholic Church unless his/her previous spouse has died or the marriage is declared invalid through a separate process. This is required even if he/she is not Catholic.*

Signature and Attestation

I, the undersigned, hereby testify that I am bringing this case forward in good faith, that the statements I have made are true to the best of my knowledge, and that I will entrust the investigation of this case to the Court. I understand that the completion of this form and my participation in the process does not guarantee that a declaration of nullity will be issued by the Court. By my signature, I empower the Court to appoint on my behalf, any personnel whom it may designate for the best assistance of this case, in whatever capacity the Court considers best. Moreover, I agree to honor fully the Court's sense of confidentiality and thus recognize that the materials gathered by the Court are solely for the purpose of studying the canonical status of my former civil marriage.

Signature of Petitioner

Date

Please check that all of the following required documents are submitted with this form:

- Certificate of Baptism** of the Petitioner (You)
- Certificate of Baptism** of the Respondent (Former Civil Spouse)
- Certificate of Catholic Marriage** (or civil certificate if not a Catholic wedding)
- Copy of the complete Divorce Decree**
- Written Personal History** (see Guide Sheet for Personal History)

*Please note that an incomplete application or missing documents will delay the process.

AGREEMENT

I, _____, by submitting this preliminary paperwork and formally submitting a
(Please Print First and Last Name)

Declaration of Nullity petition to the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and to all appeal Tribunals, do hereby understand and agree to the following:

- The accompanying answers to the Tribunal's questionnaire, written by me or given orally, are a true and factual account, to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that I have a right to an advocate and assistance in the processing of my case from Tribunal officials, to the extent lawfully allowed.
- I have no objection to the Tribunal's requirement that the Respondent have an opportunity to review all submitted evidence, including written statements, transcripts, civil documents, and any other material that my witnesses and I submit. I understand that providing my former civil spouse's current address and contact information is my responsibility and a prerequisite to beginning the process.
- I acknowledge that ministers of the Metropolitan Tribunal are mandated by state law and Archdiocesan policy to report suspected abuse or neglect of a minor to law enforcement and/or child protective services. This includes allegations of current abuse and disclosures of abuse that happened in the past.
- I acknowledge that completion of initial paperwork or the submission of my *libellus* (petition) does not guarantee that the nullity of marriage can or will be declared (i.e., there is no guarantee of an affirmative decision). I further understand that the processing of my case does not start until I submit all necessary documents.
- I understand that my case may take a year or more to complete and no specific date for completion of this process can be given. I agree not to make future marriage arrangements in the Catholic Church until a final decision is made and only if a Declaration of Freedom to Marry has been provided to me. If I do make such arrangements, I do so at my own risk and agree to hold no one else accountable for such action.
- It is my responsibility to provide witnesses (names and addresses) and any other proofs necessary to support the ground(s) of my case.
- I understand that a psychological, psychiatric, or cultural expert may be called upon to either review the case file or to conduct face-to-face interviews of either party and to prepare a report based upon the documents in the case file and the interview. I further understand that the report submitted to the Tribunal is for the sole purpose of this ecclesiastical matter and remains the property of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. A copy of this report will not be given to the parties in the case or released to any other outside party.
- I understand that this process concerns only ecclesiastical (church) matters and has no binding force or effect in civil law and other civil matters within the United States of America. I also understand and agree not to use information learned or obtained in this process against anyone in any other forum, ecclesiastical or civil. Furthermore, I agree that no civil lawsuit will ever be brought by me against the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, any appeal tribunals, its officials, witnesses, or any other agents legitimately involved in my case and I hold all of said parties harmless from any and all claims arising from the process of this case.
- I understand that both parties will receive a copy of the definitive decision and I acknowledge that the outcome of this process may not result in a declaration of nullity of my marriage. I further understand that if a negative decision is rendered, I will not receive a Declaration of Freedom to Marry and I remain canonically bound to the marriage under consideration, and that I will not be free to marry in the Catholic Church.
- Although nullity of the marriage may be declared, I understand that the judge(s) in this case may delay permission for me to marry in the Catholic Church if the case facts indicate that further pastoral or professional counseling is required to help me in any future marriage.
- I understand that this is a truth-seeking process and is juridic in nature. I further understand that this process is not specifically designed to provide closure, healing, or forgiveness, and I am encouraged to seek out spiritual direction and guidance from my pastor, trusted priest, or someone trained in pastoral care and professional counseling as needed.

Signature of the Petitioner

Date

If you are working with a priest, deacon, or parish liaison to submit your paperwork, please have them complete this form.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS

Name of Priest/Deacon/Liaison _____

Parish _____ Relationship to Petitioner _____

Current Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please answer the following questions regarding the Petitioner:

Is the Petitioner seeking recognition of a sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church? Yes No

If yes, to whom? _____

Has the Petitioner's potential spouse been married before? Yes No

If yes, has a Declaration of Nullity been granted? Yes No

If yes, in which Diocese? _____ When? _____

Is the Petitioner seeking to be received into the Catholic Church (RCIA)? Yes No

If yes, when and in which parish? _____

The Interested Priest, Deacon or Parish Liaison is asked to describe his/her pastoral impressions of the Petitioner on a separate paper and to submit it with this completed form. This should include the degree of involvement with the Petitioner, and an evaluation of the Petitioner's character, sense of responsibility, and religious practice. Even if the Petitioner is not currently engaged, please include information regarding if he or she has been dating someone or otherwise is in a serious relationship that may lead to marriage. You may also include any other information that you feel may be pertinent of the marriage in question.

Thank you for your work!

Signature of Priest/Deacon/Liaison _____ Date _____

Please send all documents and completed form to:

**Metropolitan Tribunal
Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
777 Forest Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106**

If you have any questions, please contact us at **651-291-4466** or **tribunal@archspm.org**