

Petitioner's Understanding of Basic Tribunal Procedures

By my signature at the end of this form, I affirm that I understand these basic procedures of the Tribunal and agree to respect them.

- The Catholic Church presumes (canon 1060) that every marriage is valid unless the contrary is clearly proven by evidence I present.
- There is no guarantee that my marriage will be declared null.
- My spouse has the right to know why I say the marriage is invalid and has the right to participate in this process so I have provided a correct current address.
- I must not even tentatively schedule a date for a wedding (or convalidation) until the tribunal process may be completed with an affirmative decision.
- There is no guarantee how long this process may take.
- Even if this marriage is declared null, I may receive a caution or restriction which would mean I may not remarry in the Catholic Church until certain conditions are met.

By my signature at the end of this form, I certify that

- I have contacted witnesses I have named and they agree to participate in this process.
- I verify that I have not discussed this case with those witnesses.
- I have kept a photocopy of everything I submit to the Tribunal.
- I have informed those involved in my life (such as an intended spouse, a current civil spouse, my parents, and others who may feel entitled to know) that the Tribunal is not permitted to give any information about this case to anyone except myself and the respondent and the procurator/advocates we may have appointed.

By my signature I swear to the truthfulness of all the evidence I am submitting.

Petitioner's Signature _____

Signature of Procurator/Advocate _____

Date: _____

Your responses will be held confidential except from those who have a right to review them by Church law including your former spouse, the Respondent.

Do not write on this page. Attach your responses to this form on separate paper(s) clearly numbering each response. (Do not put only one response on a page.) **Type or print legibly in black or dark blue ink.** A simple "yes" or "no" is usually not sufficient. Respond to each question with facts not opinions. For example, to say, "He was very immature" tells the Judges nothing. To say, "I thought she was immature because she was fired from four jobs in the two years that we dated" is helpful information.

SECTION ONE - COURTSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

1. When (month and year) and where did you meet your former spouse?
2. Was either of you previously married? If so, give name(s) of previous spouse(s), date(s) and place(s) of wedding(s), divorce(s)/dissolution(s).
3. Was there a formal engagement?
 - a. How long were you engaged?
 - b. Was the relationship different after you were engaged? If so, how and why?
4. The courtship/engagement:
 - a. How long (years and months) was it from your first date to the wedding?
 - b. How well did you communicate while dating/engaged?
 - c. Did you discuss any problems before the wedding? Explain them.
 - d. If so, how did you resolve those problems or any conflicts?
5. How much prior dating experience did each of you have?
 - a. How long were any prior serious relationships for either of you?
 - b. Was either of you previously engaged?
6. Was your courtship/engagement ever broken?
 - a. Describe each time you broke up, the reason(s) and for how long.
 - b. Indicate how long you had been dating up to that break up.
7. Was there anything significant or unusual about your decision to marry?
 - a. Was the decision mutual?
 - b. Was there any pressure to marry?
 - c. Did either of you threaten to break up if you did not marry soon?
8. Did you engage in pre-marital sexual activity?
 - a. If so, did that affect your decision to marry?
 - b. If so, how did that affect your relationship with each other?
9. Did you live together before your wedding?
 - a. If so, how long and why did you cohabit?
 - b. Did anyone express disapproval of that arrangement?
10. Was pregnancy or termination of a pregnancy involved in your decision to marry?
11. Were you faithful to each other during the courtship and engagement?
12. Were your family and friends supportive of your dating and marrying?

SECTION TWO - PREPARATION, WEDDING, HONEYMOON

13. Prior to your wedding, did you discuss the essential elements of marriage?
 - a. Did both of you intend to be faithful? Were you faithful?
 - b. Were both of you open to children? If not, how was conception prevented?
 - c. Was there abuse of any kind?
 - d. Did either of you consider divorce an option?
 - i. Was divorce an option for you at the time of the wedding?
 - ii. If so, for what reasons?
14. Religion
 - a. Was religion important to you at the time of the wedding?
 - b. Was there any conflict about religion?
15. Did either of you have serious doubts about marrying the other?
 - a. Explain any doubts or concerns.
 - b. If so, was anyone aware of your doubts? Who?
 - c. Did you enter into a pre-nuptial agreement? If so, why?
16. Did anyone advise against your marriage? If so, for what reasons?
17. Did anything unusual happen on your wedding day or during the honeymoon?

SECTION THREE - YOUR LIFE TOGETHER

18. Briefly describe your marriage (describe the common life in five year segments).
19. Describe your roles in the care of your home and family.
 - a. Who made the important decisions?
 - b. Was there conflict in your home?
20. Did you and your former spouse communicate honestly and effectively?
21. The relationship:
 - a. Were there problems in your sexual relationship?
 - b. Were there other problems or disturbing discoveries during your marriage?
 - c. If so, when did those occur?
22. Did both of you want and attempt to have children?
23. How did you relate to each other's families and friends?

SECTION FOUR - ENDING OF YOUR MARRIAGE

24. Did either of you seek counseling? If so, please complete a release from confidentiality for any professional you consulted. (Get the form from your Procurator/Advocate.)
25. Please detail any separations during the marriage including the final one.
26. Common life:
 - a. How long did you actually live together after the wedding?
 - b. Why did you stay together for that long?
27. Final separation:
 - a. Was anyone involved in the break-up of your marriage?
 - b. Was the decision to end your marriage a mutual one?

SECTION FIVE - RELATED ISSUES

28. Have you or your former spouse remarried? If so, list name(s), date(s), place(s), etc.
29. Are you planning to remarry? If so, give the name (maiden), religion and marital status of your intended spouse.
30. Describe your childhood, adolescence and adulthood before this wedding.
 - a. Include information about family relationships
 - i. Name your siblings in order of age
 - ii. Did you grow up with both parents?
 - b. Describe any significant events that happened while you were growing up
 - c. Were there problems within the family
 - mental illness
 - substance abuse
 - financial problems
 - chronic illness
 - d. Did you suffer or witness any verbal, physical or sexual abuse?
31. Describe any specific information that you know and how you know it about the background of your former spouse including the same details as in # 30.
32. Describe your personality, strengths, and weaknesses, your religious and educational background, and your employment history.

SECTION SIX - CONCLUSION

33. Why are you requesting a declaration of nullity for your marriage?

SECTION SEVEN - CONVALIDATION (if applicable)

34. Who suggested that you marry in the Catholic Church?
 35. Why did you participate in the Catholic ceremony?
 36. Was there any pressure for you to participate in the Catholic wedding?
 37. Did you believe that the Catholic wedding ceremony was absolutely necessary for you to be validly married? Explain.

Be sure to include required documents: marriage application (possible in Ohio), marriage certificate, divorce/dissolution decree, baptismal certificate, separation agreement, custody evaluation, etc.

List those who know the circumstances of your courtship and/or marriage. Give complete names, addresses, and telephone numbers. Specify the relationship/connection of each one to you or your former spouse. **(Copy this form as needed.)**

1. Name _____	2. Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City, State _____	City, State _____
Zip code _____	Zip code _____
Telephone _____	Telephone _____
Relationship _____	Relationship _____

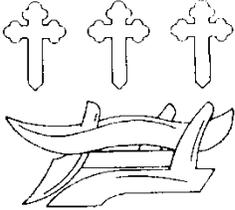
3. Name _____	4. Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City, State _____	City, State _____
Zip code _____	Zip code _____
Telephone _____	Telephone _____
Relationship _____	Relationship _____

5. Name _____	6. Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City, State _____	City, State _____
Zip code _____	Zip code _____
Telephone _____	Telephone _____
Relationship _____	Relationship _____

7. Name _____	8. Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City, State _____	City, State _____
Zip code _____	Zip code _____
Telephone _____	Telephone _____
Relationship _____	Relationship _____

By my signature I certify that I have contacted these witnesses and have obtained their willingness to participate in this Church investigation, asking them only to tell the truth.

Petitioner _____ Date _____



Indicate only one professional on each form. Complete information must be given.

Tribunal Office
100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513/421-3145

I hereby grant a release from professional confidentiality to the following person.

Name of Professional: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Consultation began on _____ and ended _____

My full legal name at that time was _____

I extend this release not only to the person or agency named above, but to all other persons or agencies which may have been in association with, or assisted, the one named. If the person named is a priest, the information must come from non-confessional sources.

The person, agency, or associates so specified are authorized to release to the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati materials in their files relative to me. They are also authorized to relate to the Tribunal any personal recollections or impressions which may be considered significant.

Materials so released will be treated with professional confidentiality. They will be available only to Tribunal personnel, released to no other person(s) or agency including myself.

This release is effective throughout the processing of my case.

I realize that I am responsible for any fee necessary for this report.

Signature _____ Date _____

It is recommended that the formal petition be completed after you have reviewed the entire document of the Petitioner's responses to the F-100.

On the following page:

with = former spouse; include maiden name.

on = date of the wedding

at = place/church of the wedding

in = city, state

before = priest, deacon, minister, rabbi, civil official

because = canonical reason for this petition

Many reasons can be alleged for the invalidity of a particular marriage. Below is a list of examples of statements you might combine to assist the Petitioner in completing the form on the next page. **The formal petition must indicate a canonical reason for nullity.**

The formal petition will be sent to the Respondent with the citation that begins the case so it should invite the participation of the Respondent which can only help the case. Statements should be truthful but not focus on blaming the Respondent for the failure of the marriage. The allegation about why the marriage is null needs to focus on the moment of consent, the wedding, not something that happened later in the marriage. If the Petitioner is honest about his/her part in the failure of the relationship, the Respondent may choose to agree with the formal petition which could help the case.

_My (our) young age and inexperience prevented a mature enough decision to marry. (Give some examples of gross immaturity at the time of the wedding.)

_My (our) experience(s) of marriage/family was (were) not good so marriage was an escape from (what? an abusive home?).

_Pregnancy was the main reason for the wedding and there was extreme pressure from (whom?) to marry.

_I (we) refused to have children. (How was conception prevented?)

_I (we) never intended to be faithful because (reasons why?).

_I had serious doubts about making a lifetime commitment but (why did you marry anyway?).

_I intended only to remain married as long as I felt love for my spouse. I thought divorce was an option for these reasons: (name them). I did not intend permanence.

_I was afraid of being alone and naively thought I could change the Respondent.

FORMAL PETITION

16

I, _____, petition the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to declare invalid the marriage I contracted with _____ on _____ at _____ in _____ before _____ because

My residence is in the (Arch)diocese of _____ My former spouse resides in the (Arch)diocese of _____

I have offered a list of proofs.

Signature of Petitioner _____ Date _____

Signature of Procurator/Advocate _____ Date _____

I appoint as my Procurator/Advocate the person whose signature appears below to represent me in the entire processing of my case. I realize this must be a person approved by the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for this work.

I understand that my former spouse has the right to know why I allege our marriage is invalid and will receive a copy of my formal petition.

I certify I have contacted the witnesses I named, and they agree to participate. I understand I am not to discuss the facts of this case with them. I have filled out a separate release from confidentiality for each professional witness I ask to have contacted by the Tribunal.

I have kept a photocopy of the materials I am submitting.

I swear to (or affirm) the truthfulness of the answers I have given to these questions.

Date _____

Signature of Petitioner _____

I have carefully reviewed the entire F-100 and the formal petition with the Petitioner. I have retained for my records a photocopy of all materials being submitted.

I assure the Tribunal that information for contacting the Respondent is included. I have indicated any special circumstances in a cover letter.

I accept the appointment to serve as Procurator/Advocate for the Petitioner.

Date _____

Signature of Procurator/Advocate _____