



## OFFICE OF THE TRIBUNAL

Diocese of Duluth • 2830 East Fourth Street • Duluth, Minnesota 55812-1501  
Tel: (218) 724-9111 • Fax: (218) 724-2221 • [www.dioceseduluth.org](http://www.dioceseduluth.org)

*Tribunal Office use:*

### APPLICATION FOR ANNULMENT

#### PETITIONER

Current Legal Name

Maiden Name (if female)

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Phone (check next to preferred contact #)

☐

(Home)

☐

(Work)

☐

(Cell)

Email Address

Date of Birth

City/State of Birth

Date of Baptism

City/State of Baptism

Name of Church Baptized At

Current Religion

Current Occupation

Current Employer

#### RESPONDENT

Current Legal Name

Maiden Name (if female)

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

☐

(Home)

☐

(Work)

☐

(Cell)

Email Address

Date of Birth

City/State of Birth

Date of Baptism

City/State of Baptism

Name of Church Baptized At

Current Religion

Current Occupation

Current Employer

Is the Respondent willing to cooperate?

#### MARRIAGE OF PETITIONER AND RESPONDENT

Date of Marriage

Who Officiated?

City/State of Marriage

Church/Place of Marriage:

Was permission for the marriage ever granted by the Catholic Church? If so, when, where, and by whom?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Unsure

Was the marriage ever subsequently validated/sanated in the Catholic Church? Is so, when, where, and by whom?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Unsure

Was this the Petitioner's first marriage?

If not, please explain:

Was this the Respondent's first marriage?

If not, please explain:

Number of children?

In what religion were they baptized?

Date of Civil Divorce or Dissolution:

City/State of Civil Divorce or Dissolution:

**When the Respondent is contacted, they will receive a copy of this page as well as the preceding page.**

In a brief statement below, give the reasons why you believe this marriage was invalid from the beginning:

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I acknowledge and understand that the information in my application and any subsequent testimony will be shared with members of the Tribunal staff and may be evaluated by an expert psychological witness for the court.

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I also acknowledge and understand that the Tribunal Staff are considered mandatory reporters in the area of child abuse and neglect or imminent harm to oneself or others and that they are required by law to report such incidence should they become known during the course of this investigation.

Initials

I solemnly swear that the information I have provided is true insofar as I know before God and my conscience, so help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner

Signed and sworn to before me, the undersigned, on

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest/Deacon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Priest/Deacon

Witnesses submitted by petitioner (names only):

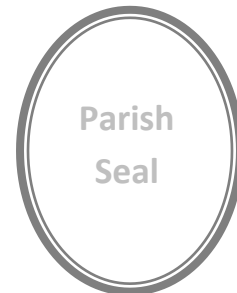
1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_



Officers of the Tribunal:

Rev. Steven Laflamme, JCL

Judicial Vicar

Rev. Dale Nau, JCL

Defender of the Bond

Shawna Hansen

Ecclesial Notary

Documents to be submitted:

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Baptismal certificate for Catholic spouse(s) (issued within the past 6 months - sealed, with marriage notations)

☐

Certified copy of marriage certificate

☐

Certified copy of civil divorce decree (not the petition for this or a separation agreement)

☐

Personal history questionnaire

☐

List of witnesses with contact information

### Personal History

The following questions are intended to give you the opportunity to present your views on your relationship to your former spouse. Some of the questions touch on the reasons for the breakup of your marriage as you see it; **please be aware that your former spouse could review your answers.** Detail is important. A simple “yes” or “no” response is almost never adequate. Please answer these questions as thoroughly as possible by typing your responses on as many sheets of 8 ½” by 11” paper as needed. When printing out your responses, please print them in a single-sided rather than double-sided page format using at least a size 12 font. If you do not have access to equipment that would allow you to type the responses to your questionnaire, you may legibly hand-write your responses.

Please bring this application together with your responses to the questionnaire below, a list of witnesses and the required documents at the bottom of page 2 to the meeting you set up with the priest or deacon who will review this with you before submitting it to the Tribunal.

### Family Backgrounds

1. Please give complete details about your own background, schooling, family, friends, military service and the like. Were there any special problems or circumstances (e.g. tensions in the home, divorce in the family, difficulty relating to parents, problems between parents, absence of parents, death, illness, alcohol or drug abuse, emotional illness, financial hardship, etc.)? Please explain in detail.

2. Please give complete details about your former spouse in regard to his/her family, schooling and the like. Were there any special problems or circumstances (e.g. tensions in the home, divorce in the family, difficulty relating to parents, problems between parents, absence of parents, death, illness, alcohol or drug abuse, emotional illness, financial hardship, etc.)? Please explain in detail.

### Concerning Your Courtship

3. When and how did you become acquainted with your former spouse?

4. How often did you date? What did you do on typical dates? Length of dating period? Before you met, how much dating had each of you done?

5. Before you decided to marry your former spouse had you had any serious relationships? How long before you began dating your former spouse had the most recent of these relationships come to an end? How had you dealt with the ending of this relationship?

6. Were there any serious problems during the courtship with your former spouse or during the time before the marriage? If so, please describe these problems and how they were resolved.

7. During the time the two of you were dating, which of you was the more dominant partner? Was the relationship between the two of you more like the relationship between your parents or the relationship between your former spouse’s parents? Please explain.

8. How and when did the two of you decide to marry?

9. Were you/was your former spouse pregnant before the marriage? If so, before the pregnancy was verified, had the two of you been planning to marry? Why or why not? How did learning of the pregnancy affect you emotionally? How did it affect your former spouse? How did the member of both of your families react to the pregnancy? Was there an abortion prior to the marriage or during the marriage? If so, please explain.

10. After your engagement, did the two of you date each other?

11. Did either you or your former spouse have any doubts about the marriage? If so, please explain. Did anyone advise against the marriage? If so, please explain.
12. If someone had asked you just before the marriage how you knew that the marriage would be a lasting one, how would you have replied?
13. If someone had asked you just before the marriage what one concern about the relationship with your intended spouse might become a problem in the future, what would you have said?
14. Was the marriage first celebrated civilly, and then validated in the Catholic Church? If so, when and where did you celebrate your marriage in the Catholic Church?
15. Please write a comment about your relationship with your former spouse during the engagement before the wedding covering the following seven (7) points: (A) your style of communicating with each other; (B) your management of finances; (C) your mutual decision-making; (D) your personal intimacy; (E) your sexual relationship; (F) your hopes for the future, both family and vocational; (G) your common values.

#### **Concerning the Marriage Itself**

16. Were there any unusual conflicts during the rehearsal dinner, on the wedding day, or on the honeymoon? If so, please explain.
17. Was the marriage entered into with mutual love? If not, please explain.
18. Was the marriage contracted freely? If not, please explain.
19. Before the marriage, did either of you decide what you would do if the marriage proved to be unhappy? Please give further details. Did both of you intend a permanent marriage? If not, please explain.
20. What was your sexual relationship in the marriage like?
21. Were any children born? If no children were born, why not? Were you taking precautions against having them? Did either of you plan to exclude the possibility of having children when you married? If so, how was this intention expressed?
22. In entering the marriage, did both of you intend to be faithful to each other for life? If not, please explain. Were you faithful to your spouse during the marriage? If not, please explain.
23. Did either of you have reservations or conditions in mind about each other before you married? If so, please explain what they were. Was either party deviant or having encounters with the law?

#### **Termination of the Marriage**

24. Give a short chronological history of the marriage: where you both lived and worked, when the children were born, the dates of separation, major events, etc.
25. Give the description of a typical day in your marriage before you began to have serious problems.
26. When and over what did the problems first arise in the marriage? What kinds of problems? How were they resolved?
27. What were your main complaints about your former spouse as a husband/father or wife/mother?

28. What were your former spouse's main complaints about you? Were they justified in any way?
29. Did either or both of you ever seek marital counseling? With whom and with what kind of results?
30. How long did you actually live together after you were married?
31. Please give the details of any and all separations, including the final separation: when and why did it occur, how long did it last, how did you become reconciled?
32. Exactly when during the marriage were statements made about a possible divorce? Why?
33. Have you remarried or do you intend to remarry? If so (A) how many times? (B) To whom? (C) Has he/she been married before? If so, please give details. (D) What is his/her religious background?
34. Has your former spouse remarried, or does he/she intend to remarry? If so (A) How many times? (B) To whom?

**Regarding the Character and Personality  
of Your Former Spouse**

35. Please describe the personality and character of your former spouse as you knew him/her during the courtship.
36. Before the marriage, were there any signs of a mental, emotional, or nervous disorder on his/her part? Were there any signs after the marriage? If so, please give a detailed explanation indicating when you first noticed them. If the disorder was drug or alcohol related, please explain in what way.
37. Did your former spouse ever undergo any psychiatric, psychological, or counselor help? If so, please provide details, names, addresses, diagnosis, results, etc.
38. In retrospect, was your former spouse, in fact, mature and ready for marriage at the time you were married? Please provide an explanation to support your response. Did he/she generally exercise good judgment? What was his/her job record like? (List specific jobs, if possible.) Please explain and give concrete examples and details.
39. What is his/her present mental or emotional condition?

**Regarding You Own Character and Personality**

40. How would you describe your own personality and character?
41. Before the marriage, did you have any mental, emotional, or nervous disorders? Were there any after the marriage? If so, please provide details.
42. Did you ever have any psychiatric, psychological or professional counselor help? If so, please provide details, names, addresses, diagnosis, results, etc. (NOTE: You may be asked to sign an authorization to release confidential information to the Tribunal that will only be accessible to Tribunal staff.)
43. Were you mature and ready for marriage? Why do you say that?
44. What is your present mental and emotional condition?
45. Are you interested in the Catholic Faith? How is this interest shown?

### LIST OF WITNESSES

Witnesses are an important and necessary part of the annulment process. As a petitioner, it is your responsibility to provide the Tribunal with the correct name and address of each witness and to talk with them so that you know they will be willing to answer a questionnaire regarding your annulment before they receive the questionnaire from the Tribunal. (They may also answer the questionnaire in person at the Diocesan Center in Duluth, MN, if they would prefer to do so.)

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Relationship to parties:	

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Relationship to parties:	

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Relationship to parties:	

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Relationship to parties:	

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Relationship to parties:	

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Relationship to parties:	

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Relationship to parties:	

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Relationship to parties:	

If you have questions about this form or the annulment process, please call Shawna Hansen, Marriage Tribunal Coordinator, at 218-724-9111 or email her at [shansen@dioceseduluth.org](mailto:shansen@dioceseduluth.org).