Formal Church Petition for a Declaration of Nullity

A typed petition is preferred. If not typed, print or write legibly. The Metropolitan Tribunal will NOT accept any form for pp. 1-14 that has been retyped, reformatted or redone in any way. Submit pp. 1-14 and your responses to Part 20 (pp. 16-23) on only one side of 8½ by 11 inch white paper, using only black ink.

PART 1: COMPETENCY and OATH

The Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has canonical competence to process your petition by reason of:

(Your Case Sponsor is to assist you with the following four options. If none are applicable or if there are questions, your Case Sponsor is to contact this Metropolitan Tribunal before proceeding further.)

Beginning with the first one, mark only one—the first one that applies.

☐ Your marriage ceremony [whether religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc.] occurred within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (Canon 1672, 1°).

☐ The Petitioner (Yourself) currently lives or maintains a residence within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (Canon 1672, 2°).

☐ The Respondent (Your Former Spouse) currently lives or maintains a residence within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (Canon 1672, 2°).

☐ The majority of proofs are within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (Canon 1672, 3°). [Majority of the persons giving testimony (can include Petitioner) must live in this Archdiocese.]

By means of this document, I, ______________________________________________________ (known as the Petitioner), do hereby petition the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to declare null the marriage I entered into with my former spouse, ______________________________________________________ (known as the Respondent), on the grounds of a defect of consent.

In support of this petition, I will submit all the necessary information, proofs, documents and witnesses.

All information, including civil and/or church documents, gathered during this process is the exclusive and permanent property of the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. All information remains confidential with officials of the Metropolitan Tribunal and is not made available to others, except as required by Canon Law of the Catholic Church, notably for review by the Petitioner (Yourself) and Respondent (Your Former Spouse). The information is not made available to witnesses, intended/current spouses or others.

I solemnly swear that I am presenting this petition in good faith and the statements herein are the whole truth and nothing but the truth to the best of my knowledge, so help me God. I will disclose any and all additional information requested by this Tribunal. I solemnly swear any additional information will be the complete truth, so help me God. I understand any false and/or misleading statements may jeopardize the credibility of this petition. I agree to cooperate fully with this Tribunal and be bound by the policies established by this Tribunal in accordance with Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

_____________________________  ______________________________
Signature of the Petitioner (Yourself)  Date Signed
PART 2: DECLARATION of the PETITIONER

I, the undersigned Petitioner, hereby indicate with my initials by EACH of the stipulations listed below that I FULLY UNDERSTAND and AGREE to abide by each and every one of them.

1. Whether this Tribunal will be able to accept my petition or render an affirmative decision is determined by this process. Simply submitting a petition is not a guarantee of acceptance or an affirmative decision. When a decision is given, whether affirmative or negative, a formal appeal of this Tribunal’s decision may be directed either to the Appellate Court for the Dioceses of Texas OR directly to the Roman Rota.

2. An exact prediction on how long it might take for a final decision to be rendered cannot be given.

3. Neither a priest, deacon, any other parish representative, nor I can set any date, even tentative, for a marriage ceremony in the Catholic Church until, if and when, a final affirmative decision for nullity has been rendered without an appeal being lodged.

4. The Tribunal may require additional pastoral requirements (pre-marital evaluation and/or counseling) prior to my entering a future marriage if an affirmative decision for nullity is rendered. The cost of counseling, if required, will be my responsibility. There may be restrictions on my entering a future marriage if I am not fulfilling my moral and civil court obligations to my former spouse and/or to any children.

5. If my petition is submitted with incomplete or incorrect information and/or without the required documents; if I fail to respond in a timely fashion to the Tribunal’s request(s) for additional information; if I fail to update the changes of marital status, last names, addresses or telephone numbers for myself and my former spouse; etc., the processing of the petition will be delayed and/or be placed in an inactive file.

6. All information gathered in this ecclesiastical process remains confidential with officials of the Metropolitan Tribunal and is not made available to others, except as required by Canon Law of the Catholic Church, notably for review by the Petitioner (Yourself) and Respondent (Your Former Spouse) in a tribunal office with the time designated by the Tribunal, either in person or through a procurator-advocate (cf. page 13). No photocopies of material may be taken by my former spouse or me from a tribunal office. The information is not made available to witnesses, intended/current spouses or others.

7. The Tribunal will keep me informed of the petition’s progress. To protect my privacy, the Tribunal will NOT accept telephone calls requesting any information on my petition. To secure such information, I must do so in writing, listing the case name, protocol number, acceptance date, my specific request, AND my signature. The Tribunal will respond in writing to my written request. NO information will be given to third parties (intended/current spouse, parents, etc.).

Anyone who desires to be married in the Catholic Church, whether Catholic or non-Catholic (baptized or non-baptized), must have each and every previous marriage reviewed by the Catholic Church through some type of nullity process. This includes any previous marriage(s) of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc.] that ended in divorce or a civil annulment. The ONLY exceptions are if the former spouse is deceased OR the previous marriage has already been declared null by the Catholic Church. Without a death certificate(s) and/or an affirmative decision(s) for nullity, it is not possible to marry in the Catholic Church.

If #8 - #10 are not applicable, mark as “N/A.”

8. A petition MUST be submitted at this time for each and every failed marriage for myself.

9. A petition MUST be submitted at this time for each and every failed marriage of my intended or current spouse.

10. A petition MUST be submitted in the future for each and every failed marriage of any future fiancé(e).

11. A copy of a current form of identification (Driver’s License, Passport, etc…) MUST be attached to this petition.

_________________________________________________
Signature of the Petitioner (Yourself)          Date Signed
### PART 3A: Petitioner Information

- **Mr.** □  **Mrs.** □  **Ms.** □  **Dr.** □  **Other** □
- **Male** □  **Female** □

**Full First Name:** ________________________________
**Full Middle Name:** ________________________________
**Present Last Name:** ________________________________
**Suffix (Sr., Jr.):** ________________________________

**Address:**  
*(Your address & phone #'s will be kept confidential.)*
- **Apartment/Unit #:** ________________________________
- **City/State/Zip:** ________________________________

**Phone Numbers:**
- **Home:** (          ) ________________________________
- **Work:** (          ) ________________________________
- **Cellular:** (          ) ________________________________

**Email:** ________________________________

**Occupation:** ________________________________

**Date of Birth:** ________________________________  
*(Month, Day, Year)*

**City/State of Birth:** ________________________________

**Baptism prior to this marriage?** □  **Yes** □  **No** □  **Not Sure**

**Ever Been Catholic?** □  **Yes** □  **No** □  **Not Sure**

- **If yes, did you ever leave the Church by a “formal act?”** □  **Yes** □  **No** □  **Not Sure**
- **Present Religion:** ________________________________
- **Attached ID Card Type and #:** ________________________________

### PART 3B: Respondent Information

- **Mr.** □  **Mrs.** □  **Ms.** □  **Dr.** □  **Other** □
- **Male** □  **Female** □

**Full First Name:** ________________________________
**Full Middle Name:** ________________________________
**Present Last Name:** ________________________________
**Suffix (Sr., Jr.):** ________________________________

**Address:**  
*(MUST provide a complete, current address.)*
- **Apartment/Unit #:** ________________________________
- **City/State/Zip:** ________________________________

**Phone Numbers:**
- **Home:** (          ) ________________________________
- **Work:** (          ) ________________________________
- **Cellular:** (          ) ________________________________

**Email:** ________________________________

**Occupation:** ________________________________

**Date of Birth:** ________________________________  
*(Month, Day, Year)*

**City/State of Birth:** ________________________________

**Baptism prior to this marriage?** □  **Yes** □  **No** □  **Not Sure**

**Ever Been Catholic?** □  **Yes** □  **No** □  **Not Sure**

- **If yes, did he/she ever leave the Church by a “formal act?”** □  **Yes** □  **No** □  **Not Sure**
- **Present Religion:** ________________________________
- **Is your former spouse able to write in English?** □  **Yes** □  **No**

### PART 4: CASE SPONSOR—Priest, Deacon or Lay Person designated by the parish who assisted you in the preparation of this petition. Your petition will NOT be accepted without a Case Sponsor.

- **Msgr.** □  **Rev.** □  **Deacon** □  **Mr.** □  **Mrs.** □  **Ms.** □  **Dr.**  □
- **Name:** ________________________________

**Address:** ____________________________________________  
**City/State/Zip Code:** ________________________________

**Address:** □ **Church** OR □ **Home**

**Phone Numbers:**
- **Home:** (          ) ________________________________
- **Work/Cellular:** (          ) ________________________________

**Case Sponsor’s Parish:** ________________________________  
**City/State:** ________________________________

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[Revised 12/08/15-P]
### PART 5: BAPTISM—CATHOLIC or other CHRISTIAN denomination
Submit a Baptismal Certificate (issued within the last 6 months, with any sacramental notations listed on the back) for either spouse who is a baptized Catholic. Your Case Sponsor has a request form to secure the certificate(s).

#### PART 5A: Petitioner’s Baptism
*(Yourself)*

| Date of Baptism: ___________________________ | Date of Baptism: ___________________________ |
| Denomination: _____________________________ | Denomination: _____________________________ |
| Name of Church: ___________________________ | Name of Church: ___________________________ |
| Mailing Address: ___________________________ | Mailing Address: ___________________________ |
| City/State/Zip: ___________________________ | City/State/Zip: ___________________________ |
| Father’s name: ____________________________ | Father’s name: ____________________________ |
| Mother’s name: _____________________________ | Mother’s name: _____________________________ |

#### PART 5B: Respondent’s Baptism
*(Your Former Spouse)*

| Date of Baptism: ___________________________ | Date of Baptism: ___________________________ |
| Denomination: _____________________________ | Denomination: _____________________________ |
| Name of Church: ___________________________ | Name of Church: ___________________________ |
| Mailing Address: ___________________________ | Mailing Address: ___________________________ |
| City/State/Zip: ___________________________ | City/State/Zip: ___________________________ |
| Father’s name: ____________________________ | Father’s name: ____________________________ |
| Mother’s name: _____________________________ | Mother’s name: _____________________________ |

### PART 6: PROFESSION of FAITH
If you and/or your former spouse were baptized in another Christian denomination and later formally joined the Catholic Church, complete the following. If this did not occur, mark it “NA.” Continue to Part 7. Submit a Profession of Faith Certificate for either spouse who became Catholic. Your Case Sponsor has a request form to secure the certificate(s).

#### PART 6A: Petitioner Information, if became Catholic
*(Yourself)*

| Date of Profession of Faith: ___________________________ | Date of Profession of Faith: ___________________________ |
| Name of Church: ___________________________ | Name of Church: ___________________________ |
| Mailing Address: ___________________________ | Mailing Address: ___________________________ |
| City/State/Zip: ___________________________ | City/State/Zip: ___________________________ |

#### PART 6B: Respondent Information, if became Catholic
*(Your Former Spouse)*

| Date of Profession of Faith: ___________________________ | Date of Profession of Faith: ___________________________ |
| Name of Church: ___________________________ | Name of Church: ___________________________ |
| Mailing Address: ___________________________ | Mailing Address: ___________________________ |
| City/State/Zip: ___________________________ | City/State/Zip: ___________________________ |

### PART 7: Your marital status at the time of marrying the Respondent *(Your Former Spouse)*

Did you have any marriage(s) of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc.] PRIOR to your marriage to the Respondent *(Your Former Spouse)*?  □ Yes  □ No  [If NO, continue to Part 8.]

Number of times: Married: _______ Divorced: _______ Widowed: _______  [Submit copy of death certificate(s).]

If you were married, divorced and/or widowed PRIOR to your marriage to the Respondent *(Your Former Spouse)*, list the following information for all prior marriages of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name of prior spouse</th>
<th>Date/Place of Marriage ceremony</th>
<th>Date/Place of Divorce and/or Death of prior spouse</th>
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### PART 7, Continued: Your marital status at the time of marrying the Respondent (Your Former Spouse)

If you had no marriages of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc.] prior to your marriage to the Respondent, continue to Part 8.

If you were married and divorced PRIOR to your marriage to the Respondent, did you OR this prior spouse ever petition for an annulment with this Tribunal, any other Catholic Tribunal or parish? □ Yes □ No

If YES, provide name of Catholic Tribunal or parish and the City/State where you OR this prior spouse petitioned. Who petitioned and when?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name of prior spouse</th>
<th>Date/Place of Marriage ceremony</th>
<th>Date/Place of Divorce and/or Death of prior spouse (Indicate divorce or death.)</th>
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Indicate the petition’s status: affirmative/negative decision; just submitted; in process; inactive; etc. If a final decision was given, provide the date. Submit a copy of final decree.

If your former spouse(s) of any prior marriage is still living and that failed marriage(s) has not been declared null by the Catholic Church, then a petition(s) MUST be submitted at this time. Each and every prior marriage must be reviewed, either through a petition OR the submittal of a death certificate of a former spouse(s). This is required, whether you are a Catholic or not.

### PART 8: The marital status of the Respondent (Your Former Spouse) at the time of marrying you

Did the Respondent (Your Former Spouse) have any marriage(s) of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc.] PRIOR to marrying you? □ Yes □ No  

(If NO, continue to Part 9.)

Number of times: Married: _____  Divorced: _____  Widowed: _____

If the Respondent (Your Former Spouse) was married, divorced and/or widowed PRIOR to marrying you, list the following information for all prior marriages of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc.].

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<tr>
<th>Full Name of prior spouse</th>
<th>Date/Place of Marriage ceremony</th>
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If the Respondent was married and divorced PRIOR to marrying you, did the Respondent OR his/her prior spouse ever petition for an annulment with this Tribunal, any other Catholic Tribunal or parish? □ Yes □ No  

(If NO, consult your Case Sponsor to ensure you are completing the correct petition form.)

If YES, provide name of Catholic Tribunal or parish and the City/State where the Respondent OR his/her prior spouse petitioned. Who petitioned and when?

Indicate the result: affirmative/negative decision; inactive, etc. If a final decision was given, provide the date. Submit a copy of final decree, if possible.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Full Name of prior spouse</th>
<th>Date/Place of Marriage ceremony</th>
<th>Date/Place of Divorce and/or Death of prior spouse (Indicate divorce or death.)</th>
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### PART 9: MARRIAGE BEING STUDIED

You MUST submit a certified copy of the civil marriage license. (If you married the same person more than once, submit a copy of all civil marriage licenses.)

If the marriage ceremony occurred in the Catholic Church, you MUST submit a copy of the Church Marriage Certificate. Your Case Sponsor has a request form to secure the certificate.

| Length of dating, prior to engagement: __________________________ | Length of engagement: __________________________ |
| (not counting any break-ups) | (not counting any break-ups) |

Date of Marriage Ceremony: __________________________  
(Month, Day, Year)

Name of Church or Place of Marriage Ceremony: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________

City/State/Zip Code: ____________________________________________

Marriage ceremony officiated by:
- Catholic priest/deacon
- Other Christian minister
- Non-Christian minister
- Civil Magistrate
- Common Law

Age at time of this marriage ceremony: Yourself: ___________________________ Former Spouse: ___________________________

Religion at time of this marriage ceremony: Yourself: ___________________________ Former Spouse: ___________________________

Were you and your former spouse related by blood, legally (in-laws, adoption) or in a spiritual relationship [Godparent to the other]?
- Yes
- No

If YES, explain: ________________________________________________________________________

Number of marital separations, including the final one: _______  
Approximate date of final separation: __________________________  
(Month, Year)

Length of time of living with your former spouse from the marriage ceremony until the final separation: ___________________________  
(not counting any separations)

If you and/or your former spouse were Catholic at the time of the marriage ceremony and the marriage ceremony did NOT occur in a Catholic Church, did you and/or your former spouse receive marital preparation by the Catholic Church?  
- Yes  
- No

If YES, indicate:

Name of Parish: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________

City/State/Zip Code: ____________________________________________

Did you and/or your former spouse receive the necessary, Catholic dispensation or permission from the Catholic bishop so as to be married in a place other than a Catholic Church?  
- Yes  
- No  
- Not Sure

Did you OR your former spouse ever petition for an annulment of THIS marriage with this Tribunal, any other Catholic Tribunal or parish?  
- Yes  
- No

If YES, answer:

Name of the Catholic Tribunal or parish AND City/State where you OR your former spouse petitioned.  
Who petitioned & when?

Indicate the result: Negative, Not Accepted, Inactive, etc.

NOTE to CASE SPONSOR: If this marriage ceremony occurred at your parish, the Case Sponsor MUST submit a photocopy of the entire, original pre-nuptial investigation file and a photocopy of this marriage entry in the parish marriage register.
### PART 9: SUPPLEMENT—CONVALIDATION

To be completed ONLY if you first had a non-Catholic ceremony and later had a Catholic ceremony (convalidation, i.e., recited your marital vows before a Catholic priest/deacon). If this did not occur, mark it “N/A.” Continue to Part 10.

If a convalidation occurred, you MUST submit a copy of the Church Marriage Certificate.

Your Case Sponsor has a request form to secure the certificate.

| Date of convalidation:  | __________________________ | 
| (Month, Day, Year) | | 

| Name of Catholic Church: | ____________________________________________________________________________ | 
| Mailing Address: | ____________________________________________________________________________ | 
| City/State/Zip Code: | __________________________ | 

| Age at time of convalidation: | Yourself: __________________________ | Former Spouse: __________________________ | 
| Religion at time of this convalidation: | Yourself: __________________________ | Former Spouse: __________________________ | 

| Number of children conceived and born after this convalidation: | __________________________ | 
| Number of separations prior to convalidation: | ______ | Number of separations after convalidation, including the final one: | ______ | 

| Approximate date of final separation: | __________________________ | 
| Length of time of living with your former spouse from the convalidation date until the final separation: | __________________________ | (not counting any separations) | 

**NOTE to CASE SPONSOR:** If a convalidation occurred at your parish, the Case Sponsor MUST submit a photocopy of the entire, original pre-nuptial investigation file and a photocopy of this marriage entry in the parish marriage register.

### PART 10: CHILDREN

| Number of children conceived with the Respondent (being the parent) prior to this marriage ceremony: | __________________________ | 
| Number of children conceived and born after this marriage ceremony: | __________________________ | 
| Number of children adopted during this marriage: | __________________________ | 
| Number of miscarriages during this marriage: | __________________________ | 
| Number of abortions during this marriage: | __________________________ | 

**If there were no children, continue to Part 11.**

| Full names of children: | Date of Birth of each child: | Baptized: Yes or No? | Which denomination? | Custody, if minors: Joint, Yourself or Former Spouse? | 
| __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | 
| __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | 
| __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | 
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| __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ | __________________________ |
## PART 11: CIVIL DIVORCE

You MUST submit a certified copy of the COMPLETE and FINAL divorce decree, signed and dated by the judge. (If you were divorced more than once from the same person, submit a certified copy of all divorces.)

| Date of Divorce: ___________________________ | County: _________________________ | State: ___________________________ |
| Month, Day, Year (Date of the judge’s signature) |

Who filed for divorce? □ Yourself □ Former Spouse
On what grounds? __________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Was there any mention of a Catholic Church annulment included in the divorce proceedings and/or final divorce decree?

□ Yes □ No  If YES, who requested it? Why? ___________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Is there any current or possible future civil litigation with your former spouse [child custody, etc.]?  □ Yes □ No
If YES, explain. _______________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________

What is the PRESENT relationship between you and your former spouse?

□ Good □ Indifferent and/or toleration for sake of children □ Bad □ No contact at all

Do you think your former spouse will be cooperative, uninterested or antagonistic to this process? Explain.____________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Have you informed your former spouse about this process? If so, were they supportive of your petition for a declaration of nullity? Explain. ____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________

## PART 12: After the marriage as described in this petition, did you enter into any marriage of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc.] that also ended in divorce or death of the subsequent spouse? □ Yes □ No (If NO, continue to Part 13.)

Number of times: Married: _______ Divorced: _______ Widowed: _______ [Submit copy of death certificate(s).]

If you were married, divorced and/or widowed AFTER the marriage as described in this petition, list the following information for all subsequent marriages of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.) or common law, etc.].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name of subsequent spouse</th>
<th>Date/Place of Marriage ceremony</th>
<th>Date/Place of Divorce and/or Death of subsequent spouse. Indicate divorce or death</th>
<th>If subsequent spouse is still living, indicate type of case &amp; where are you petitioning?</th>
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IF your subsequent spouse(s) is still living and that failed marriage(s) has not been declared null by the Catholic Church, then a petition(s) MUST be submitted at this time. Each and every marriage must be reviewed, either through a petition OR the submittal of a death certificate of the subsequent spouse(s). This is required, whether you are a Catholic or not.
PART 13: Did the Respondent (Your Former Spouse) ever remarry?  □ Yes □ No □ Not Sure

(If NO or UNSURE, continue to Part 14A.)

If YES, how many times and how successfully? If your former spouse entered into a subsequent failed marriage(s), what happened and why? Is there a pattern in your former spouse’s failed marriage(s)? Explain. __________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

PART 14A: Your present marital status and plans

☐ Single. IF I truly do not want to ever remarry again, I understand that I do not have to undergo this process.  
(A Catholic who is divorced, not remarried, and in a state of grace may receive the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick. A non-Catholic who is divorced, not remarried, in a state of grace and is desiring to join the Catholic Church may join the Church and may receive the Sacraments of Baptism (if non-baptized), Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick. If you change your mind, read #44 and #48—FAQS).

☐ Single and not dating anyone.  (Read #10 of the Declaration of the Petitioner, page 2.)

☐ Single and dating.  (Read #10 of the Declaration of the Petitioner, page 2.)

☐ Dating someone seriously.  (Read #9 and #10 of the Declaration of the Petitioner, page 2.)

☐ Currently engaged (or soon to be).  (Read #9 of the Declaration of the Petitioner, page 2.)

☐ Currently remarried.  (Read #9 of the Declaration of the Petitioner, page 2.)

Date/Place of Marriage Ceremony: ______________________________________________________________________
(Month, Day, Year) (City/State)

What are your plans if a declaration of nullity is granted?  _____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

PART 14B: Your present religion

If you are Catholic, which parish do you attend?  ____________________________________________
City/State:  ____________________________________________

If you are non-Catholic, do you desire to become a Catholic?
[Becoming a Catholic is not required for this process or for marriage in the Church.]

☐ Yes, but I have not started any process to study the Catholic faith yet.

☐ Yes, I am currently studying the Catholic faith at:  ____________________________________________
(Name of Parish)  (City, State)

☐ No, I am not interested at this time.
PART 15A: Your Intended or Current Spouse’s present marital status
If dating seriously, engaged (or soon to be) or remarried, complete the following. If not, mark “NA.” Continue to Part 16.

What is his/her name? _______________________________________________________________________________________

Full First Name  Full Middle Name  Present Last Name  If female, Maiden Name

Date/Place of Birth: __________________________  Religion: __________________________

(Month, Day, Year)  (City/State)

Did your intended/current spouse have any previous marriage(s) of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc.]?  □ Yes  □ No (If NO, continue to Part 15B.)

Number of times: Married: _______  Divorced: _______  Widowed: _______

[Submit copy of death certificate(s).]

If your intended or current spouse was previously married, divorced and/or widowed, list the following information for all previous marriages of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil court (justice of the peace, etc.), common law, etc.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name of previous spouse</th>
<th>Date/Place of Marriage ceremony</th>
<th>Date/Place of Divorce and/or Death of previous spouse (Indicate divorce or death)</th>
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If married and divorced, did your intended/current spouse OR his/her previous spouse ever petition for an annulment with this Tribunal, any other Catholic Tribunal or parish?  □ Yes  □ No (If NO, consult Case Sponsor.)  □ In process of petitioning.

If YES, provide name of Catholic Tribunal or parish and the City/State where your intended/current spouse OR his/her previous spouse petitioned. Who petitioned and when?

________________________________________________________________________

Indicate the petition’s status: affirmative/negative decision; just submitted; in process; inactive; etc.  If a final decision was given, provide the date.  Submit a copy of final decree.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

If NO, consult your Case Sponsor.  IF your intended or current spouse has a former spouse of any previous marriage who is still living and that failed marriage(s) has not been declared null by the Catholic Church, then a petition(s) MUST be submitted at this time. Each and every previous marriage must be reviewed, either through a petition OR the submittal of a death certificate of a former spouse(s). This is required, whether your intended or current spouse is a Catholic or not.

PART 15B: Your Intended or Current Spouse’s present religion
If dating seriously, engaged (or soon to be) or remarried, complete the following. If not, mark “NA.” Continue to Part 16.

If your intended/current spouse is Catholic, indicate:  □ Baptism  □ Profession of Faith  Date: __________________________  (Month, Day, Year)

Parish: ______________________________________  City/State: ______________________________________

If your intended/current spouse is Catholic, which parish does he/she attend?

Parish: ______________________________________  City/State: ______________________________________

If your intended or current spouse is non-Catholic, does he/she desire to become a Catholic?

[ Becoming a Catholic is not required for this process or for marriage in the Church.]

□ Yes, but he/she has not started any process to study the Catholic faith yet.

□ Yes, he/she is currently studying the Catholic faith at:

______________________________________________  in ___________________________________________.

(Name of Parish)  (City, State)

□ No, he/she is not interested at this time.

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PART 16: WITNESSES

Canon Law REQUIRES that this petition be substantiated not only by the statement of the spouse(s) to this marriage, but also by the responses of reliable witnesses. Witnesses are to be knowledgeable of your family background and childhood AND knowledgeable about the relationship between you and your former spouse prior to AND throughout this marriage. Immediate family members (your parents, brothers and sisters) are usually the best witnesses. Other suggestions include: relatives, good friends, members of the wedding party, co-workers, neighbors, even relatives of your former spouse, etc. Do not include the Respondent (your former spouse), children from this marriage or your intended/current spouse. Before listing any witnesses, you must first secure their permission. Without their permission, most witnesses are surprised and even angered when they receive a questionnaire from the Tribunal. The Tribunal requires three witnesses; however, more are acceptable. [Photocopy this page if necessary.] English is the preferred language for responses. The time to process your petition will be lengthened if the Tribunal has to translate any responses into English. Please provide the correct spelling and prefix (with complete, current address and phone numbers) for each witness. Inform your witnesses that their responses may be reviewed in a tribunal office by you and your former spouse. However, no photocopies of their responses will be allowed to be taken by you and/or your former spouse from a tribunal office. You may not “coach” any witnesses with their responses. Inform your witnesses to: respond to the questionnaire with the complete truth; abide by the time period allotted to complete and return their responses to the Metropolitan Tribunal; and keep a photocopy of their responses in the event their original responses do not reach this Metropolitan Tribunal.

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Other ______ Phone: Home: (     ) ___________________ Work: (     ) ___________________
Name _____________________________________________________________ Email __________________________
First Name ________________________________________________ Middle Name __________________________ Last Name __________________________
Address ___________________________________________ City/State/Zip __________________________
(Apartment/Unit # if applicable)
Relationship _______________ Year this witness met you? _________ Year this witness met your former spouse? _________
Is this witness able to write in English? ☐ Yes ☐ No If NO, which language? ________________________________

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Other ______ Phone: Home: (     ) ___________________ Work: (     ) ___________________
Name _____________________________________________________________ Email __________________________
First Name ________________________________________________ Middle Name __________________________ Last Name __________________________
Address ___________________________________________ City/State/Zip __________________________
(Apartment/Unit # if applicable)
Relationship _______________ Year this witness met you? _________ Year this witness met your former spouse? _________
Is this witness able to write in English? ☐ Yes ☐ No If NO, which language? ________________________________

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Other ______ Phone: Home: (     ) ___________________ Work: (     ) ___________________
Name _____________________________________________________________ Email __________________________
First Name ________________________________________________ Middle Name __________________________ Last Name __________________________
Address ___________________________________________ City/State/Zip __________________________
(Apartment/Unit # if applicable)
Relationship _______________ Year this witness met you? _________ Year this witness met your former spouse? _________
Is this witness able to write in English? ☐ Yes ☐ No If NO, which language? ________________________________

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Other ______ Phone: Home: (     ) ___________________ Work: (     ) ___________________
Name _____________________________________________________________ Email __________________________
First Name ________________________________________________ Middle Name __________________________ Last Name __________________________
Address ___________________________________________ City/State/Zip __________________________
(Apartment/Unit # if applicable)
Relationship _______________ Year this witness met you? _________ Year this witness met your former spouse? _________
Is this witness able to write in English? ☐ Yes ☐ No If NO, which language? ________________________________

Please provide the correct spelling and prefix (with complete, current address and phone numbers) for each witness.
PART 17A: COUNSELING INFORMATION

COUNSELING: If one or both spouses to this marriage received counseling prior to, during and/or after this marriage, a report from the respective counselor may be beneficial to this process. You would be responsible for any fee the counselor might assess. Photocopy this page if more than one counselor was involved. (Or you may use a release form supplied by the counselor.) Most counselors do NOT keep records for counseling that occurred 7 or more years ago.

1. The Respondent (my former spouse to this marriage) and I received joint counseling.
   - Yes
   - No
   If YES, complete and sign the release form, Part 17B below, provided you have first secured the permission of the counselor who is willing to submit a report.

2. I received individual counseling.
   - Yes
   - No
   If YES, complete and sign the release form, Part 17B below, provided you have first secured the permission of the counselor who is willing to submit a report.

If the answers to the above two statements are “NO,” continue to Part 18.

PART 17B: PETITIONER’S RELEASE of COUNSELOR’S INFORMATION

By means of this document, I, ____________________________________________________________________, my address being  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Middle Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

__________________________________________________________________________________________, and my telephone numbers being  

Address (Apartment/Unit # if applicable)  

City, State, Zip Code  

/  

City, State, Zip Code  

Home Phone (area code & number)  

Work Phone (area code & number)  

(Month, Date, Year)  

With my date of birth being _________________.

my social security number being _____________________________ (Required).  

do hereby state that I have secured the permission of the following counselor, doctor, agency or hospital to: complete a questionnaire that will be provided by the Metropolitan Tribunal; and/or submit a photocopy of my file records.

I hereby request and authorize ____________________________________________________________________,  

Name of counselor, doctor, agency or hospital  

whose address is ____________________________________________________________________________,  

COMPLETE, CURRENT ADDRESS (Suite # if applicable)  

City, State, Zip Code  

and telephone number where the counselor, doctor, agency or hospital can be reached ____________________________________________________________________________,  

Phone Number: (area code & number)  


to release pertinent information about my counseling to: Metropolitan Tribunal—Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  

P.O. Box 907  

Houston, TX 77001-0907  

(713) 807-9286

Signature of the Petitioner (Yourself)  

Date signed  

1. Indicate the approximate dates [months and years] you were seen professionally by the above named counselor, doctor, agency or hospital.

________________________________________________________________________

2. Indicate your exact name, if it was not the same as listed above, at the time you were seen professionally by the above named counselor, doctor, agency or hospital.

________________________________________________________________________
PART 18: MANDATE and WAIVER of the PETITIONER

On this date, I freely and knowingly issue the following Mandate and Waiver.

By means of this Mandate and Waiver, I agree to whomever the Tribunals of First and Second Instance select to act as my Procurator/Advocate. To that person, I concede the faculty of doing and performing in my name all that may be necessary and useful.

By means of this Mandate and Waiver, I empower my Procurator-Advocate to:

1) Represent me in all facets of this case (Canon 1481, §1);
2) Substitute another Procurator/Advocate if the one chosen is unable to carry out the functions assigned (Canon 1486, §1);
3) Receive the notification of the ground(s) established in the Decree Joining the Issue(s) (Canon 1513, §1);
4) Request the addition of new grounds or the change of accepted grounds (Canon 1514);
5) Renounce the action if it becomes evident that there are no grounds (Canon 1485);
6) Inspect the Acts of the Case, and as Advocate to petition for a copy of the said Acts (Canon 1598, §1);
7) Review the judgment as set out in the Definitive Sentence, and as Procurator to receive a copy of the said Sentence (Canon 1615);
8) Appeal the case, and to serve as Advocate in Second Instance, if necessary (Canon 1628);
9) Carry out all other acts that may be opportune or necessary.

By means of this Mandate and Waiver, I promise that I will institute no litigation before any civil jurisdiction or for any cause whatsoever, since this matter pertains only to the governance of the Catholic Church and is within Her exclusive jurisdiction.

Given at ___________________________________________________ on this date.

(City/State)

Signature of the Petitioner (Yourself)  Date signed

Signature of Case Sponsor  Date signed

PARISH SEAL

FOR TRIBUNAL USE ONLY:

ACCEPTANCE of MANDATE

I, _____________________________________________________________, hereby accept the mandate to act as Procurator/Advocate for the Petitioner, _____________________________________________________________.

in the matter of the petition for a Declaration of Nullity of the marriage with the Respondent, _____________________________________________________________.

____________________________________________________________

Signature of Procurator/Advocate  Date signed

METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL SEAL
PART 19: CHECK-LIST of the PETITIONER
I, the undersigned Petitioner, hereby indicate with my initials by EACH of the applicable items for which all the material has been submitted as requested. If not applicable, mark as “N/A.”

___ I have read the Letter of Introduction (pages i-iii) and FAQS (pages I-XII). I have completed fully and accurately all applicable information for pages 1-14, using the form provided. The Metropolitan Tribunal will NOT accept any form for pages 1-14 that has been retyped, reformatted or redone in any way. I have answered the questions in Part 20 as fully as possible. Any omission or incorrect information and/or lack of required documents will delay the processing of the petition.

___ I have submitted a complete, current address for my former spouse.

___ If I am a male Petitioner, I have submitted the present last name (correct spelling) of my former spouse with the appropriate prefix. (Names are very sacred to individuals. The Tribunal wants to address your former spouse appropriately.)

___ I have submitted the maiden name of the female Petitioner/Respondent on page 3. (This is important because a Tribunal case name includes the maiden name of the female.)

___ I have submitted at least 3 witnesses with the correct spelling of their names and their complete, current addresses and phone numbers. I have read the information listed about witnesses on page 11 and will abide by it.

___ I have signed and dated the following pages:
   ___ PART 1: COMPETENCY and OATH, page 1.
   ___ PART 2: DECLARATION of the PETITIONER, page 2.
   ___ PART 17B: PETITIONER’S RELEASE of COUNSELOR’S INFORMATION, page 12, if applicable.
   ___ PART 18: MANDATE and WAIVER of the PETITIONER, page 13 (Includes parish seal & Case Sponsor’s signature).
   ___ PART 19: CHECK-LIST of the PETITIONER, page 14 (Includes Case Sponsor’s signature).
   ___ Libellus: Page 2 (Includes Case Sponsor’s signature).

___ I have enclosed a certified copy of the civil marriage license. (If I married the same person more than once, enclosed is a certified copy of all marriage licenses.)

___ I have enclosed a certified copy of the complete and final divorce decree signed and dated by the judge. (If I was divorced more than once from the same person, enclosed is a certified copy of all divorce decrees.)

___ I have enclosed a petition(s), death certificate(s), and/or copy of a final decree of nullity for each and every previous marriage of mine and if applicable, for my intended/current spouse.

To be completed ONLY if you and/or your former spouse are a baptized Catholic or have become a Catholic:
(Your Case Sponsor has a request form to secure the certificates.)

___ I am a Catholic (baptized or profession of faith). Enclosed is a Baptismal Certificate (issued within the last six months with sacramental notations listed on the back) or a Profession of Faith Certificate.

___ My former spouse is a Catholic (baptized or profession of faith). Enclosed a Baptismal Certificate (issued within the last six months with sacramental notations listed on the back) or a Profession of Faith Certificate. [This information may be obtained from your former spouse (or family) or from the Catholic Church of marriage. Your Case Sponsor may have to assist you.]

___ My marriage ceremony (convalidation) occurred in the Catholic Church. Enclosed is copy of the Church Marriage Certificate. (If the marriage/convalidation occurred in the Case Sponsor’s parish, have your Case Sponsor submit a photocopy of the entire, original pre-nuptial investigation file and a photocopy of this marriage entry in the parish marriage register.)

This information is required for the nullity process, and if an affirmative decision for nullity is rendered, the Tribunal must notify the Catholic Church of baptism/profession of faith and marriage.

___ I have attached a copy of a current and valid form of identification (Driver’s License, Passport, etc…) to this Petition.

___ The processing fee is $100.00 and can be paid in installments.

___ I have retained a photocopy of my entire petition (and any future material) in the event that it does not reach the Tribunal Office.

Petition is to be sent to: Metropolitan Tribunal—Incoming Formal Petitions
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
P.O. Box 907
Houston, TX  77001-0907

___________________________________________  _________________________________
Signature of the Petitioner (Yourself)  Date Signed

___________________________________________  _________________________________
Signature of Case Sponsor  Date Signed

[Revised 12/08/15-P]