



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Metropolitan Tribunal

P.O. Box 907 Houston, TX 77001-0907 (713) 807-9286

DSF Supported

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. 1-13 that has been retyped, reformatted or redone in any way. Submit pp. 1-13, your responses to Part 19 (pp. 15 ff), and the Libellus 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 marriage (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 and by the Mandatory Reporting Laws for the State of Texas, especially with regard to Abuse of Children. Testimony may be reviewed 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 Tribunal for the Province of Galveston-Houston 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 and Mandatory Reporting Laws for the State of Texas. Testimony may be reviewed by the Petitioner (Yourself) and Respondent (Your Former Spouse) 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. Since we are processing numerous petitions at any given time and for confidentiality purposes, the Tribunal prefers written requests for status reports or questions. The Tribunal will respond to these requests in whatever way it deems most appropriate. An “excessive” number of requests to this office will slow down the process since it takes time to answer each request. To secure such information, I must do so in writing, listing the case name, protocol number, acceptance date, my specific request, AND my signature. NO information will be given to third parties (intended/current spouse, parents, etc.) except as required by Canon Law of the Catholic Church and Mandatory Reporting Laws for the State of Texas.

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 marriage (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
(Yourself)

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Other _____

Male Female

Full First Name: _____

Full Middle Name: _____

Present Last Name: _____

Suffix (Sr., Jr.): _____

If female, Maiden Name: _____

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
(Your Former Spouse)

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Other _____

Male Female

Full First Name: _____

Full Middle Name: _____

Present Last Name: _____

Suffix (Sr., Jr.): _____

If female, Maiden Name: _____

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: _____

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: _____
(Month, Day, Year)

Denomination: _____

Name of Church: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Father’s name: _____
(Full First, Full Middle, Last Name)

Mother’s name: _____
(Full First, Full Middle, Maiden Name)

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

Date of Baptism: _____
(Month, Day, Year)

Denomination: _____

Name of Church: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Father’s name: _____
(Full First, Full Middle, Last Name)

Mother’s name: _____
(Full First, Full Middle, Maiden 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: _____
(Month, Day, Year)

Name of Church: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

Date of Profession of Faith: _____
(Month, Day, Year)

Name of Church: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

BEFORE you married the Respondent (Your Former Spouse), did you have any other marriage(s) of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil marriage, common law, etc.]? Yes No [If NO, continue to Part 8.]

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

Full Name of prior spouse	Date/Place of Marriage ceremony	Date/Place of Divorce and/or Death of prior spouse (Indicate divorce or death.)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Submit copy of death certificate(s) for all deceased spouses.

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 marriage (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*?

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

BEFORE the Respondent (*Your Former Spouse*) married you, did he/she have any other marriage(s) of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil marriage, common law, etc.]? Yes No **(If NO, continue to Part 9.)**

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

Full Name of prior spouse	Date/Place of Marriage ceremony	Date/Place of Divorce and/or Death of prior spouse <i>(Indicate divorce or death.)</i>

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.**

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: _____
 (Month, Year)

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: <i>Yes or No?</i> <i>Which denomination?</i>	Custody, if minors: <i>Joint, Yourself or Former Spouse?</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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: SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE(S) AND DIVORCE(S) BY THE PETITIONER

AFTER your marriage to the Respondent (Your Former Spouse) in this petition, did you enter into any marriage of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil marriage, common law, etc.]? Yes No **(If NO, continue to Part 13)**

Did this marriage(s) end in divorce or death of any of the subsequent spouse(s)? Yes No **(If NO, continue to Part 13)**

If you were married, divorced and/or widowed AFTER the marriage to the Respondent in this petition, list the following information for all subsequent marriages of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil marriage, common law, etc.] excluding your current marriage:

Full Name of subsequent spouse	Date/Place of Marriage ceremony	Date/Place of Divorce and/or Death of subsequent spouse. <i>Indicate divorce or death or both</i>	If subsequent spouse is still living, <i>indicate</i> type of case & <i>where</i> are you petitioning
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Submit copy of death certificate(s) for all deceased spouses.

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: SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE(S) AND DIVORCE(S) BY THE RESPONDENT

Did the Respondent (Your Former Spouse) ever remarry? Yes No Not Sure

(If No or Not Sure, 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:
_____ in _____
(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)

BEFORE your intended/current spouse started a relationship with you did he/she have any previous marriage(s) of any kind [religious, convalidation, civil marriage (Justice of the Peace, etc.), common law, etc.]? Yes No **(If NO, continue to Part 15B.)**

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 marriage (Justice of the Peace, etc.), common law, etc.]

Full Name of previous spouse	Date/Place of Marriage ceremony	Date/Place of Divorce and/or Death of previous spouse <i>(Indicate divorce or death)</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

If your intended/current spouse was married and divorced PRIOR to his/her relationship with you, did your intended/current spouse OR his/her prior 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. <u>Submit a copy of final decree.</u> _____ _____ _____
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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.

PART 16: WITNESSES

Canon Law **REQUIRES** that the evidence which you submit is corroborated by reliable witnesses. The Tribunal requires three witnesses; however, more are acceptable (photocopy this page if more space is needed). The best witnesses are those who knew you as a child and are also knowledgeable about the relationship between you and your former spouse both prior to and throughout this marriage. For this reason, immediate family members are usually the best witnesses. Other suggestions include: relatives, good friends, members of the wedding party, co-workers, neighbors, relatives of your former spouse, etc. Do not include your former spouse (who will automatically be contacted), children from this marriage or your intended/current spouse as witnesses. Please provide the correct spelling and prefix (with current address, email, and phone numbers) for each witness.

Before listing any witnesses, you must first secure their permission. Otherwise, they will be surprised and possibly angered when they receive our questionnaire and thus be less likely to participate. You may not “coach” any witnesses with their responses. **Please ask your witnesses to:** respond to the questionnaire with the complete truth; return it within the time period allotted to them; and keep a photocopy of their responses in the event their original responses do not reach this Tribunal. Please also inform them that the Tribunal must abide by all Mandatory Reporting Laws for the State of Texas especially with regard to Abuse of Children, and that their responses may possibly be reviewed in a tribunal office by you and your former spouse. English is the preferred language for responses. Answers in other languages will delay the process as responses are being translated.

_____ Initial here to indicate that you have read and abide by all the information contained above

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? _____

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
First Name Middle Name Last Name

_____, and my telephone numbers being
Address (Apartment/Unit # if applicable) City, State, Zip Code

_____, with my date of birth being _____,
Home Phone (area code & number) Work Phone (area code & number) (Month, Date, Year)

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 or 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: GUIDELINES FOR YOUR PERSONAL AND MARITAL HISTORY

PART 19 is to assist the Metropolitan Tribunal to determine IF your petition will be accepted. That decision will be based upon the facts and concrete examples given in your responses. Your willingness to share personal and intimate realities about yourself, your former spouse and your previous marital relationship will help this Metropolitan Tribunal to understand if your marital relationship was reflective of the Catholic Church’s understanding of marriage.

1. Read **all** the questions *first* before attempting to respond to any one question. Some questions may appear to be repetitious, but such questions reappear in a **specific** time period. Therefore, answer questions *only* according to that **specific** time period. For example: If you are writing about alcohol/drug abuse during the dating/engagement in Section C, limit your responses *only* to that time period. Any remarks about alcohol/drug abuse during the marriage are to be reserved for that question in Section E.
2.
 - a) Reflect upon each question carefully. Your complete openness and honesty in answering all the questions will be helpful to your petition. Take your time. May the Holy Spirit guide and support you in this effort.
 - b) Sometimes there is a tendency not to reveal the whole truth in order to avoid making anyone “look bad.” The truth may not always be complimentary to a person and/or situation, but this Metropolitan Tribunal still needs to know the complete truth of the relationship. Thus, it is not an issue of making anyone “look bad,” but an issue of revealing the complete truth. Please reveal the truth in a spirit of charity and love.
 - c) Answer the questionnaire with the following in mind. In order for an ecclesiastical tribunal to declare a marriage null, it must have proof that a **radical defect** was present from the beginning of the marriage. A radical defect affects marital consent and may influence how the marriage develops.
3. Be explicit in your responses so that this office may have a complete picture of you, your former spouse and your former marriage. Focusing only on what happened at the end of the marriage is not helpful. Although you are keenly aware of your marital relationship, this Metropolitan Tribunal is not. Your thinking may have changed since you had entered this marriage. Who you are “now” is not who you were “then.” This Metropolitan Tribunal needs to know who you were as a person when you entered this marriage and to know how you may have changed since that marriage.
4.
 - a) Respond to all questions **fully**. Give **specific** examples whenever possible. Be clear about the time of events, stating clearly when (month/year) important experiences occurred.
 - b) Some “yes” or “no” responses require an explanation. If a question does not apply, mark it as “N/A” (Not Applicable). If you do not know the answer to a question, mark it as “UNK” (Unknown).
 - c) Title each section and number your response to each question. Answer each and every question and each sub-part (a, b, c, etc.) separately. Do not combine any answers.

For example:

Section B—Background of the Respondent (*Your Former Spouse*)

1.
 - a) Your response
 - b) Your response
2.
 - a) Your response
 - b) Your response
 - c) Your response

Continue in the same fashion with each and every question and each sub-part (a, b, c, etc.).

- d) Leave a blank space after each response. You do not have to retype the question itself.
5.
 - a) The Tribunal **strongly** encourages you to submit a **typed** petition. If not typed, **print or write legibly**. Use **only black ink** because your responses will be photocopied for interoffice use.
 - b) Use only one side of 8½ by 11 inch, **white** paper for your responses to PART 19. **Number each page**.
6.
 - a) Reread “Things that will slow down this process,” *page iii* of the Letter of Introduction (specifically #8a-e).
 - b) If you do not understand a question(s), consult your Case Sponsor.

PART 19: SECTION A—BACKGROUND of the PETITIONER (*Yourself*)

Purpose: To understand how your background influenced your model for relationships.

1.
 - a) List your father’s full first, middle and last name.
 - b) List your mother’s full first, middle and present last name. Indicate your mother’s maiden name.
2.
 - a) Where did you grow up (city, small town, rural, state, country)? List your family’s social/economic background. Did your family move while you were growing up? If yes, how often? How did this affect you growing up? Did work require either parent to be away from the home very much? If yes, explain.
 - b) Describe your parents’ relationship with each other (warm/loving; emotionally distant; troubled, etc.).
 - c) Did either parent or a family member ever “abandon” the family or die? Who did, when? How did that affect you?
 - d) If your parents divorced or a parent died, were there any remarriage(s), and if so, when, how many and how successful? How did a blended family affect you?
 - e) Who reared you (mother and/or father, grandparent, step parent, aunt/uncle, older sibling, etc.)? Describe your relationship with each parent/parent figure while growing up (warm/loving; emotionally distant; troubled, etc.). Who was the dominant parent, if either? Was there excessive strictness or permissiveness? Explain.
 - f) List your parents’ religion(s) and religious practice (always; frequent; sometimes; rarely; never; etc.) while you were growing up. How did their religious practice affect you (positively, negatively, indifferently, etc.)? Explain.
 - g) How many siblings [brothers, sisters, including half or step brothers and sisters] do you have? What was your position in the chronological ordering of you and your siblings? Have any of your siblings been married more than once due to divorce or death? If yes, how many siblings, how many times and when?
 - h) Did anyone in the family struggle with alcohol and/or drug abuse? If yes, explain.
 - i) Was anyone in the family abused emotionally, verbally, physically and/or sexually? If yes, explain.
 - j) Did anyone in the family suffer with physical illnesses, mental/emotional difficulties, and/or attempt suicide, or have a history of gambling, criminal activity, arrest or imprisonment etc.? If yes, explain.
3.
 - a) Indicate your highest educational level (Catholic, private and/or public schools; graduation from high school or not; GED; technical school, college, graduate school, etc.).
 - b) Describe briefly your work experience, different jobs, professions, duration of each?
 - c) How would you describe yourself?
For example: introvert/extrovert; felt accepted or not; inferior/superior; sensitive/insensitive to the needs of others; independent/dependent; carefree/moody; easy-going/nervous; patient/quick-tempered; materialistic; giving/selfish; trusting/jealous; grateful or not; honest/dishonest; ability to make a decision/procrastination; judgment in everyday situations; ability to make/maintain friends; ability to get along with authority; etc.
4. Concerning your dating experience **prior** to your relationship with your former spouse:
 - a) At what age did you begin to date? Did you date frequently, occasionally, rarely, never? Did you date a number of persons with similar or different personalities? Explain.
 - b) What was your attitude toward sex and your experience of sexual activity in your previous dating? Explain.
 - c) Did you ever live with another person you were dating? If yes, when, why, how long, what happened, etc.
 - d) Were you ever engaged to anyone other than your former spouse? If yes, when, how long, what happened, etc.
 - e) If you were previously married, how and why did it end? Any unhealthy patterns? Explain.
5. To what extent did your growing up years and the example of your parents’ marriage(s) prepare you, well or poorly, for your own adult life and marriage? Explain.

PART 19: SECTION B—BACKGROUND of the RESPONDENT (*Your Former Spouse*)

Purpose: To understand how your former spouse’s background influenced his/her model for relationships.

Answer each and every question and each sub-part (a, b, c, etc.) separately. Do not combine any of your answers.

Refer to your former spouse by name. If you did not know your former spouse while he/she was growing up, comment on what your former spouse shared with you and what his/her family or friends said about his/her early years. How did his/her family interact when you were in their presence?

1.
 - a) List the full first, middle and last name of your former spouse’s father.
 - b) List the full first, middle, present last name of your former spouse’s mother. Indicate the mother’s maiden name.

2.
 - a) Where did your former spouse grow up (city, small town, rural, state, country)? List the family’s social/economic background. Did the family move while he/she was growing up? If yes, how often? How did this affect his/her growing up? Did work require either parent to be away from the home very much? If yes, explain.
 - b) Describe his/her parents’ relationship with each other (warm/loving; emotionally distant; troubled, etc.).
 - c) Did either parent or a family member ever “abandon” the family or die? Who did, when? How did that affect your former spouse?
 - d) If his/her parents divorced or a parent died, were there any remarriage(s), and if so, when, how many and how successful? How did a blended family affect your former spouse?
 - e) Who reared your former spouse (mother and/or father, grandparent, step parent, aunt/uncle, older sibling, etc.)? Describe his/her relationship with each parent/parent figure while growing up (warm/loving; emotionally distant; troubled, etc.). Who was the dominant parent, if either? Was there excessive strictness or permissiveness? Explain.
 - f) List his/her parents’ religion(s) and religious practice (always; frequent; sometimes; rarely; never; etc.) while he/she was growing up. How did their religious practice affect your former spouse (positively, negatively, indifferently, etc.)? Explain.
 - g) How many siblings [brothers, sisters, including half or step brothers and sisters] does your former spouse have? What was your former spouse’s position in the chronological ordering of his/her siblings? Have any of his/her siblings been married more than once due to divorce or death? If yes, how many siblings, how many times/when?
 - h) Did anyone in the family struggle with alcohol and/or drug abuse? If yes, explain.
 - i) Was anyone in the family abused emotionally, verbally, physically and/or sexually? If yes, explain.
 - j) Did anyone in the family suffer with physical illnesses, mental/emotional difficulties, and/or attempt suicide, or have a history of gambling, criminal activity, arrest or imprisonment etc.? If yes, explain.

3.
 - a) Indicate your former spouse’s highest educational level (Catholic, private and/or public schools; graduation from high school or not; GED; technical school, college, graduate school, etc.).
 - b) Describe briefly your former spouse’s work experience, different jobs, professions, duration of each?
 - c) How would you describe your former spouse?
For example: introvert/extrovert; felt accepted or not; inferior/superior; sensitive/insensitive to the needs of others; independent/dependent; carefree/moody; easy-going/nervous; patient/quick-tempered; materialistic; giving/selfish; trusting/jealous; grateful or not; honest/dishonest; ability to make a decision/procrastination; judgment in everyday situations; ability to make/maintain friends; ability to get along with authority; etc.

4. Concerning your former spouse’s dating experience **prior** to your relationship with him/her:
 - a) At what age did he/she begin to date? Did he/she date frequently, occasionally, rarely, never? Did he/she date a number of persons with similar or different personalities? Explain.
 - b) What was his/her attitude toward sex and experience of sexual activity in his/her previous dating? Explain.
 - c) Did he/she ever live with another person he/she was dating? If yes, when, why, how long, what happened, etc.
 - d) Was your former spouse ever engaged to anyone other than you? If yes, when, how long, what happened, etc.
 - e) If your former spouse were previously married, how and why did it end? Any unhealthy patterns? Explain.

5. To what extent did your former spouse’s growing up years and the example of his/her parents’ marriage(s) prepare your former spouse, well or poorly, for his/her own adult life and marriage? Explain.

PART 19: SECTION C—DATING and ENGAGEMENT with the RESPONDENT (*Your Former Spouse*)

Purpose: To understand the dynamics of your relationship during your dating and engagement.

1. a) When and how did you meet your former spouse? What was the attraction? Did you begin to date immediately or not? Explain. What was your age when you began to date your former spouse? Your former spouse's age?
b) How often did you date your former spouse? What kind of dates were these (always alone or with others, etc.)?
c) Did you date "long distance?" If so, how, when and why? What proportion of the relationship was "long distance?" How did the "long distance" issue affect the relationship and the decision to marry?
2. **While dating and engaged**, was there ever an abuse of alcohol and/or drugs? If yes, answer:
 - a) Who had the problem, when? What type(s) of alcohol and/or drugs were involved? How frequent; how severe?
 - b) Were there any arrests, accidents, loss of work, change of personality, etc., associated with the abuse?
 - c) Was there any attempt at recovery and/or counseling? If yes, describe what type, when, level of success, etc.
 - d) If alcohol and/or drug abuse was ongoing, why did you and your former spouse marry?
3. **While dating and engaged**, was there ever any emotional, verbal, physical and/or sexual abuse? If yes, answer:
 - a) By whom, when and what kind of abuse? How frequent; how severe? Cite examples.
 - b) With such abuse, why did you and your former spouse marry?
4. **While dating and engaged**, did you become "involved" with someone else? If yes, answer:
 - a) What was the nature of this relationship (sexual, non-sexual, etc.)? When did it occur, how long, why, etc.?
 - b) Did you consider such behavior acceptable? Was this known and/or acceptable to your former spouse? Why did you and your former spouse marry?
5. **While dating and engaged**, did your former spouse become "involved" with someone else? If yes, answer:
 - a) What was the nature of this relationship (sexual, non-sexual, etc.)? When did it occur, how long, why, etc.?
 - b) Did he/she consider such behavior acceptable? Was this known and/or acceptable to you? Why did you and your former spouse marry?
6. **While dating and engaged**, describe how you and your former spouse got along (religion; religious practice as a couple; quality of communication; money; work; responsibility; independency/dependency; conflict resolution; arguments; jealousy; anger; gambling; pornography; etc.). Describe any problems; who had the problem, when, how did the other party respond, how was the problem resolved.
If there were problems, why did you and your former spouse marry?
7. **While dating and engaged**, were there any break-ups? If yes, answer:
 - a) How many, when, how long, why? Who initiated each break-up and each reconciliation? Explain.
 - b) Did the problem(s) get resolved once dating resumed? If not, why did you and your former spouse marry?
8. **While dating or engaged**, did you and your former spouse share in sexual relations? If yes, answer:
 - a) Whose idea was it and why? Did either party insist on sexual relations, threaten the relationship would end if sex did not occur, etc.? When did it begin and did it continue up to the wedding? Explain.
 - b) Did sexual relations create a sense of obligation in either party to continue in the relationship? Explain.
 - c) What types of birth control, if any, were used? Were there any pregnancies, miscarriages and/or abortions? If yes, how many, when, etc. Did it create a sense of obligation in either party to marry? Explain. If there was a pregnancy, had the wedding date been set before the pregnancy was discovered? Would you and/or your former spouse have married if a pregnancy had not existed? Explain.

PART 19: SECTION C—DATING and ENGAGEMENT continued

9. **While dating or engaged**, did you and your former spouse begin to live together at any time? If yes, answer:
 - a) When did you begin living together and did it continue up to the wedding? Whose idea was it and why? Was it a mutual, free decision or one with reservations (by whom and why)?
 - b) How did family and friends react to the living arrangement? If it was kept from them, why?
 - c) Did living together create a sense of obligation in you and/or your former spouse to marry? Explain.

10. a) Who proposed marriage? Did the other party immediately accept the proposal? If not, explain. How old were you when you became engaged? The age of your former spouse?
 - b) Was a decision made to shorten or lengthen the engagement? If yes, explain.
 - c) Describe any major event(s) that may have affected your decision and/or your former spouse’s decision to marry. For example: Cultural/ethnic customs/expectations/pressures; enlisting in the military; friends marrying; escaping an unhappy home; afraid you would never find anyone better; act of rebellion; encouraged/told/expected to marry your former spouse; just the next step to marry; to gain citizenship; to gain some perceived benefit such as inheritance, upward mobility, a promotion, etc.; OR any other event.
Would you and/or your former spouse have married if this situation had not existed? Explain.
- d) Did you and/or your former spouse have “cold feet,” concerns, doubts, hesitations, reservations, etc., about marrying? If yes, who did, when, why, etc.?

11. What did your family and friends think about the dating and later the decision to marry? Your former spouse’s family and friends? Did anyone object or have concerns that were voiced to you, your former spouse and/or others, etc.? If yes, who, when and why? Why did you and/or your former spouse marry over their objections/concerns?

12. a) Did you and/or your former spouse discuss what marriage meant to each other and the expectations of respective roles? Explain.
 - b) Did you and your former spouse receive any marriage preparation? If not, why not? If yes, who provided it? Did both parties take seriously the marriage preparation? If not, who did not and why not?

13. a) Did you and your former spouse have a **pre-nuptial agreement**? If yes, explain the nature and reasons of the agreement. If the pre-nuptial agreement was written, submit a copy of it.
 - b) Did you and/or your former spouse place **any condition/restriction/limitation** on your consent to marry? (For example: “I will marry you as long as you remain faithful, slender, not be abusive; stop drinking or abusing drugs; become a Catholic; etc.”) If yes, who did? State the condition/restriction/limitation and the reasons why.

14. a) **Prior to the marriage**, do you think you AND your former spouse were sufficiently mature, emotionally stable, had an adequate understanding of what marriage involved? Were you both capable of living it out? If no, provide reasons with examples. Why did you believe your former spouse would be a good marriage partner? Why do you think your former spouse thought you would be a good marriage partner?
 - b) Did you accept your former spouse “as is?” Or did you think you could change your former spouse, or hope your former spouse would change? Did your former spouse accept you “as is?” Or did your former spouse think he/she could change you, or hope you would change? Explain.

15. **Prior to the marriage** and concerning **permanence**:
 - a) Did you and your former spouse discuss permanence? What was your understanding of permanence? Your former spouse’s understanding? Did you and/or your former spouse think that there were some circumstances (such as unhappiness, infidelity, abuse, etc.) that would justify a divorce and a right to remarry another? If yes, explain.
 - b) How did the acceptability of divorce in society and the fact that family members and/or friends were divorcing and remarrying affected your understanding of permanence? Your former spouse’s understanding? Explain.
 - c) Did you enter this marriage: “hoping” your marriage would last forever OR “being committed” to your marriage lasting forever? What about your former spouse? Explain.

16. **Prior to the marriage** and concerning **fidelity**:
 - a) Did you/your former spouse discuss fidelity; its meaning; what would happen if an infidelity occurred? Explain.
 - b) Did you or your former spouse ever believe it was permissible to be unfaithful during marriage? For example: one did not believe fidelity was an essential element of marriage; one thought one could be unfaithful if the other party was not willing or not able to have sexual relations; one could retaliate for the other party’s infidelity; etc.

PART 19: SECTION D—WEDDING and HONEYMOON

Purpose: To learn if there were any signs at the time of the wedding and honeymoon that may have indicated future problems in the marriage.

1. Who planned the wedding? Were both spouses involved? Any disagreements, interference by others, etc.? Explain.
2. What was your frame of mind (happy, sad, confident, not sure, reluctant, “wish you could change your mind,” etc.) and how did you act on the wedding day, especially at the marriage ceremony? What was your former spouse’s frame of mind/actions on the wedding day, especially at the marriage ceremony?
3. Were there any unusual events and/or behaviors exhibited by you, your former spouse and/or others at the rehearsal, rehearsal dinner and/or on the wedding day prior to, during or after the marriage ceremony? If yes, explain.
4. Did your marriage vows include a phrase such as “until death do us part” or “for as long as we both shall live?” If not, why not? If you wrote your own wedding vows, submit a copy of the wording of your vows.
5. If you took a honeymoon, was it a pleasant experience? Mention any problems, disagreements, arguments, etc. Were sexual relations on the honeymoon a pleasant experience for both of you? Explain.

PART 19: SECTION D SUPPLEMENT—CONVALIDATION

To be completed ONLY if you first had a non-Catholic ceremony & 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 19: Section E.

Purpose: To understand the dynamics of your relationship at the time of the Catholic ceremony.

1.
 - a) Why did you choose to marry in a non-Catholic ceremony the first time?
 - b) Who made the decision to have the Catholic ceremony and why?
For example: Did you and your former spouse feel you had to have the Catholic ceremony so as to receive the Sacraments; to baptize your child; to serve as a Godparent, etc.? If yes, explain.
 - c) Was there any influence/pressure/ultimatum exerted by anyone (you, your former spouse, family, etc.) to have the Catholic ceremony? If yes, who and why?
 - d) What kind of marriage preparation, if any, occurred prior to the Catholic ceremony? Did both parties take seriously this preparation? If not, who did not and why not?
2.
 - a) Describe your Catholic ceremony: the frame of mind of each spouse (happy, sad, confident, not sure, reluctant, “wish you could change your mind,” etc.); clothes worn; number of guests; type of reception, if any; etc.
 - b) Were you and/or your former spouse open to having children **after** the Catholic ceremony? If not, who, why?
3.
 - a) When did you consider yourself having been married—after the non-Catholic ceremony or after the Catholic ceremony? Explain.
 - b) When did your former spouse consider himself/herself having been married—after the non-Catholic ceremony or after the Catholic ceremony? Explain.
 - c) Why did you think the Church required a Catholic marriage ceremony? Your former spouse?
4. Were you already experiencing marital problems **prior** to the Catholic ceremony? What were the problems? If there were problems, why did you have the Catholic ceremony? If the problems developed **after** the Catholic ceremony, what were the problems and when did they begin? Explain.

PART 19: SECTION E—MARRIED LIFE

Purpose: To understand the dynamics of your relationship during your marriage.

1. What role, if any, did God, faith or religion play in your marriage? Did you see your marriage as having a spiritual reality? Were you both of the same faith tradition? If not, describe any problems, including bringing up children in one faith tradition. Did you pray together as a couple/family at home? Weekly, did you worship together as a couple/family at a place of worship? Or did only one spouse (and children) go to a place of worship? Or did neither practice any formal worship? Describe any problems.
2. Describe the **relational dynamics** between you and your former spouse **during the entire marriage**.
 - a) Describe the style of communication you shared with your former spouse AND your former spouse with you. (Effective and calm; reactionary; angry; many arguments; silence; etc.).
 - b) How open did you feel about revealing your deepest feelings and thoughts to your former spouse? How receptive was your former spouse to your feelings and thoughts? How open did your former spouse feel about revealing his/her deepest feelings and thoughts to you? How receptive were you to your former spouse’s feelings and thoughts? Explain.
 - c) Did you experience your marriage as a partnership or living as two separate individuals? Explain.
 - d) Were you and your former spouse able to express and receive signs of affection, warmth, closeness and support? If not, who was not able to do so and why not?
 - e) Were both spouses pleased with the sexual relationship and sensitive to each other’s needs? If not, explain. Did either spouse make any sexual requests or demands that caused any difficulty, were excessive, undesirable or abnormal? Was either pornography or sexual orientation an issue? If yes, explain.
 - f) Was there ever any emotional, verbal, physical and/or sexual abuse? If yes, answer: By whom, when and what kind of abuse? How frequent; how severe? Cite examples. Was the abuse a reason for the divorce? If yes, to what degree?
3. **During this marriage**, was there ever an abuse of alcohol and/or drugs? If yes, answer:
 - a) Who had the problem, when? What type(s) of alcohol and/or drugs were involved? How frequent; how severe?
 - b) Were there any arrests, accidents, loss of work, change of personality, etc., associated with the abuse?
 - c) Was there any attempt at recovery and/or counseling? If yes, describe what type, when, level of success, etc.
 - d) Was the alcohol and/or drug abuse a reason for the divorce? If yes, to what degree?
4. **During this marriage**, did you become “involved” with anyone other than your former spouse? If yes, answer:
 - a) What was the nature of this relationship (sexual, non-sexual, etc.)? When did it occur, how long, why, etc.?
 - b) Did you consider such behavior acceptable? Was this known and/or acceptable to your former spouse? How did this affect your marital relationship?
 - c) Did you eventually marry or are you now intending to marry that person?
5. **During this marriage**, did your former spouse become “involved” with anyone other than you? If yes, answer:
 - a) What was the nature of this relationship (sexual, non-sexual, etc.)? When did it occur, how long, why, etc.?
 - b) Did he/she consider such behavior acceptable? Was this known and/or acceptable to you? How did this affect your marital relationship?
 - c) Did your former spouse eventually marry or is he/she now intending to marry that person?
6. **During this marriage**, were you and/or your former spouse ever hospitalized or treated for nervousness, emotional or psychological problems, suicide attempts? If yes, who was, when, where, how long and what was the nature of the illness? Submit documentation (copy of actual medical records and prescription drug receipts, outline of the dates of hospitalizations, medical visits, etc.) as proof. If not possible, explain why. Complete Part 17 A & B on page 12.
7. Did your personality and/or your former spouse’s personality change **after** the marriage ceremony? If yes, who and what behaviors gave evidence of the changes? When did those changes begin to take place? Explain.
8. As a married couple, where did you live (city, small town, rural, state, country) and did you move often? Did this create any problems? Explain. List your social/economic background as a married couple.

PART 19: SECTION E—MARRIED LIFE continued

9. What influence did your family and friends have on the marriage? Your former spouse’s family and friends? Who had the influence? When was the influence exhibited? How did this affect your marital relationship? Was either spouse not able to “separate” from his/her parents, family and friends? If yes, explain. Did either spouse have a strained relationship with the in-laws? If yes, explain. How did this affect your marital relationship?
10. Describe the following issues for you and your former spouse: the taking of responsibility; the making of decisions; and the exercise of power. How were problems, conflicts and/or differences of opinion handled by you? By your former spouse? (Head on; ignored; not addressed until a major crisis; giving in to the other person; etc.) Was either spouse excessively independent of, or dependent on, the other? Explain.
11. a) Where did each spouse rank the marital partnership as compared to other goals, such as work, success, education, etc., (First priority, second, third, last)?
- b) What were the attitudes and actions of each spouse toward domestic chores, the sharing of responsibilities and the ordinary daily concerns of married life? Did this create problems? Explain.
- c) How did work/career/money and its management affect the marital relationship? Did both spouses work outside the home? Did work require either spouse to be away from the home often? If yes, explain.
- d) Was there any other issue (lack of commitment/trust; jealousy; possessiveness; hobbies; use of computer; internet; TV; gambling; criminal activity; arrest; imprisonment, etc.) that caused problems? If yes, explain.
12. If there were no children, either conceived or adopted **after** the marriage ceremony, answer #12 (a)-(f). If there were children conceived or adopted after the marriage ceremony, mark #12 as “N/A” and continue to #13.
- a) **Prior** to the marriage, did you both discuss having children and were you both willing to have children? If not, who was unwilling and why? **During** the marriage, why were no children born? Was one spouse insistent on avoiding or kept delaying children? Who and why? Did any of these cause problems? Explain.
- b) If a decision was made **prior** to the marriage to postpone children, did either one of you change your mind? If yes, who did, when and why? Was the change acceptable to both spouses? Explain.
- c) Did one spouse originally want to have children prior to the marriage and had a change of mind once married? If yes, who changed, when and why? How did this affect the marital relationship?
- d) What types of birth control, if any, were used? Was it used always, usually, rarely? Were both spouses in agreement or were there reservations (by whom and why)? Explain. Would one refuse to have sexual relations if birth control was not used? If yes, who and why?
- e) Was either person unable to have children **prior** to the marriage (sterility, vasectomy, tubal ligation, hysterectomy, etc.)? If yes, who and why? Was this known to the other person and acceptable? Explain. Were both parties open to adoption? Explain.
- f) If it was discovered **during** the marriage that conception was not physically possible, explain why. How did this affect the marital relationship? Were both parties open to adoption? Explain.
13. a) After having had a certain number of children, did either spouse insist on no more children? Was this decided **prior to OR only during** the marriage? Explain.
- b) **During** this marriage, did you and/or your former spouse undergo a surgical operation so as to prevent the conception of a child? If yes, who did, what type of surgery, when and why? Were both spouses in agreement about the surgical operation? If not, who was not and why? Explain.
14. a) Any miscarriages **during** this marriage? If yes, how many and when? How did this affect the marital relationship?
- b) Any abortions ever obtained **during** this marriage? If yes, how many, when and why? Was it a mutual decision? If not, who insisted on it? How did this affect the marital relationship?
15. Concerning parenthood (including children from another relationship), if applicable:
- a) Did either spouse bring children from another relationship? If so, how many and what were their ages? Did the child/children live with you and your former spouse or was there a visitation agreement? How did this affect your marital relationship and/or family dynamics?
- b) Did each spouse freely welcome each pregnancy and the child (children)? Explain.
- c) How was the responsibility of children handled by you? By your former spouse? Was this an area of agreement?
- d) Describe your own and your former spouse’s relationship with each child and whether there were any significant issues with your child (children) that contributed to marital problems and/or divorce.
- e) If there was a death of a child, when did it occur and how? How did this affect the marital relationship?

PART 19: SECTION E—MARRIED LIFE continued

16. Did you and/or your former spouse **deliberately keep, hide or conceal** important personal information from the other party **before** the marriage (For example: alcohol and/or drug abuse; sexual issue(s); sexual orientation; gambling; excessive debt; medical/psychological condition; sterility; previous marriage; a child from another relationship; etc.)? If yes, answer:
- a) If it was revealed **prior** to the marriage, what was it; who concealed it and why; how was it revealed? Once revealed, why did you and your former spouse marry?
 - b) If it was revealed **after** the marriage, what was it; who concealed it and why; how was it revealed? Once revealed, how did it affect the marital relationship?
17. a) How many marital separations, including the final one, were there? When and how long did each one last? What were the reasons for each separation? Who initiated each separation? Was there any attempt to reconcile and live together again? Who initiated each reconciliation? What occurred during the reconciliation(s)? Who mentioned divorce for the first time? When, why? Were there any threats to divorce? By whom, how many, when, why? What caused the **final** separation?
Were you and your former spouse open to marital counseling? If not, who and why not? If yes, how did counseling affect the marital relationship. If counseling occurred, complete Part 17 A & B on page 12.
- b) What was your thought process in seeking a divorce when you had vowed to remain married “until death do us part,” especially if **you** filed for the divorce and/or if the marriage was relatively short? Your former spouse? Explain.
 - c) If this was a longer marriage, why did it last so long, especially if there were so many problems? Explain.
 - d) How long did you live under the same roof, but not as a true marital couple? [For instance, a couple may decide to remain living together in the same house for the sake of the children; lack of finances for the divorce or to live on one’s own; to avoid parents’ disapproval of divorce; etc. Many times they live as separate individuals in the same house. If this applies to your relationship, explain when this occurred, why, etc.]
18. A healthy marriage includes mutual sharing, an intimate partnership, and opportunities for personal growth and is for the good of both spouses. Were any of these aspects missing and if so, when did you become aware of it? Explain. What did you AND your former spouse do and/or not do in this marriage that contributed to its problems? What have you learned from this failed marriage? Explain.

PART 19: SECTION F—DIVORCE and LIFE THEREAFTER

1. a) Was the divorce easily resolved? If not, why?
 - b) Are the moral and civil court obligations to each other and to any children born of this marriage being met? Explain.
2. Concerning children, if any:
- a) If the divorce occurred when the children were considered minors by civil law, who received custody of the children of this marriage? What were the reasons?
 - b) Have there been any changes in custody? If so, who, when, why, etc.?
 - c) Has either parent allowed his/her child to be adopted by another person? Explain.
3. Concerning subsequent marriage(s), if any:
- a) Does this marriage contain the elements of a successful marriage? Explain.
 - b) If you have entered into a subsequent failed marriage(s), briefly explain what happened and why? Do you recognize a pattern in your failed marriage(s)? Explain.
4. In order for an ecclesiastical tribunal to declare a marriage null, it must have proof that a **radical defect** was present at the time of consent during the marriage ceremony. Given this fact, what do you see as the **radical defect that was present from the beginning of this marriage**? Explain.
5. Are there any other issues that need to be addressed which were not included in this questionnaire? If yes, explain.

Libellus

Each Petitioner is to complete this summary of their case with the assistance of their Case Sponsor. This should not exceed two pages. The Respondent will be able to see these two pages, so please be prudent in what you write.

Name of Petitioner (Yourself): _____

Name of Respondent: _____

Length of Dating: _____ Length of Engagement: _____

Date of Marriage Ceremony: _____ Place of Marriage Ceremony: _____

Age of Petitioner at Marriage: _____ Was Petitioner baptized at this time? _____ Catholic? _____

Age of Respondent at Marriage: _____ Was Respondent baptized at this time? _____ Catholic? _____

Children born after Marriage Ceremony: _____ Years lived together after Marriage Ceremony: _____

Date of Civil Divorce: _____

Date of Convalidation (if applicable): _____

Age of Petitioner at Convalidation: _____ Age of Respondent at Convalidation: _____

Children born after Convalidation: _____ Years lived together after Convalidation: _____

Background of the Petitioner (Yourself): _____

Background of the Respondent (Your former spouse): _____

Dating and Engagement: _____

(continue on next page)

Wedding and Honeymoon (and Convalidation if applicable): _____

Married Life: _____

Divorce and Life Thereafter: _____

In your opinion, what challenges or problems were present in this relationship both from the beginning while dating and later during the marriage? _____

Signature of Petitioner

Signature of Case Sponsor

Date

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 1-13, using the form provided. The Metropolitan Tribunal will NOT accept any form for pages 1-13 that has been retyped, reformatted or redone in any way. I have answered the questions in Part 19 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).
 - ___ LIBELLUS: Page 2 (Includes Case Sponsor’s signature).
 - ___ CHECK-LIST of the PETITIONER, page 23 (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 civil 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 a 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