

THE TRIBUNAL

Petitioner: _____

Respondent: _____

FORMAL CASE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. The questionnaire is designed to present a clear history of both parties to this marriage. It includes questions regarding the two parties' homes of origin, early life, courtship, engagement, marriage, separation, and divorce.
2. Please give complete answers, and offer examples where needed. It is important to explain your beliefs, feelings and attitudes **prior** to entering into marriage.
3. Offer detailed information. One and two word answers are not acceptable, and will delay your case. A follow-up interview will be required if information is inadequate. Please call the Tribunal at (903) 534-1077 ext 140 if you have questions.
4. This is a formal document. Testimony should be typed or written legibly in ink. Do not use pencil.
5. The Petitioner answers this **entire** form. A separate form will be mailed to the Respondent, (your former spouse). If more space is needed, please insert additional pages.

revised 10/04/06

FORMAL PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF INVALIDITY

PETITIONER: First, Middle, Maiden & Present Last Name

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Z: _____

Phone: Work: (____)_____ Home: (____)_____

Religion: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age _____

Church of Baptism: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Z: _____

RESPONDENT / FORMER SPOUSE: First, Middle, Maiden & Present Name

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Z: _____

Phone: Work: (____)_____ Home: (____)_____

Religion: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age _____

Church of Baptism: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Z: _____

MARRIAGE: (Enclose copy of civil marriage license)

Place/Church: _____ Date _____

Address: _____ County: _____

City/St/Z: _____

DIVORCE: (Enclose certified copy of divorce decree)

County: _____ State: _____ Date: _____

WITNESSES: (I have contacted who are willing to testify:)

Witnesses are a vital part of this process. The best witnesses are those who knew the parties before, at the time of, and during the courtship and/or marriage. At least three knowledgeable witnesses are required. Family members often make good witnesses.

Name: _____ work: (____) _____

Address: _____ home: (____) _____

City/St/Z: _____

Relationship: _____ How long acquainted? _____

Name: _____ work: (____) _____

Address: _____ home: (____) _____

City/St/Z: _____

Relationship: _____ How long acquainted? _____

Name: _____ work: (____)_____

Address: _____ home: (____)_____

City/St/Z:

Relationship: _____ How long acquainted? _____

Name: _____ work: (____)_____

Address: _____ home:
(____)_____

City/St/Z:

Relationship: _____ How long acquainted? _____

PETITIONER AGREEMENT

Please initial each statement.

I, the undersigned Petitioner, understand that:

- ___1. A declaration of invalidity cannot be granted until I have provided sufficient evidence to overturn the Church's presumption that my marriage is valid.
- ___2. Submitting this petition does not guarantee that a declaration of invalidity will be granted
- ___3. The rights of the Respondent (my former spouse) will be protected.
- ___4. Both parties have the right to review the case testimony at a designated time in the Tribunal office.
- ___5. I have the obligation to exhaust all reasonable means to locate my former spouse, and provide the Tribunal with a current address and phone number. If unsuccessful, I agree to document what attempts I made to locate my former spouse.
- ___6 I may **NOT** set a date for marriage in the Catholic Church until a declaration of invalidity is granted.
- ___7. A declaration of invalidity is an ecclesiastical matter and has no bearing whatsoever in civil law.
- ___8 Children born to this union do not become illegitimate as a consequence of such a declaration.

- ___9. The Tribunal may recommend /require pre-marital preparation or counseling prior to my entering into a future marriage.
- ___10. If a declaration of invalidity is granted, there may be restrictions on my entering a future marriage if I am not fulfilling my moral and civil obligations to my former spouse/children.
- ___11. Only the Petitioner, Respondent, or their Advocates may seek information regarding the case. Inquiries should be made in writing, and must include **the case name and protocol number**.

I. _____

Petitioner signature

Date

Payment Agreement

The Tribunal will incur certain expenses processing your case. A **\$400.** fee is necessary to help defray these costs. This fee does not cover the entire cost to the Tribunal to process your case.

The Tribunal's decision is in no way affected by the Petitioner's ability or inability to meet the fee. In the event of a true financial hardship, please consult the Tribunal.

A **\$25. non-refundable filing fee** is to be submitted with your petition. If the case is accepted, this will be applied to the fee balance.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check the following that apply, and **sign**.

- ___ 1. I have enclosed the filing fee of **\$25.** Check # _____
- ___ 2. I will make \$_____ monthly payments towards the \$375. balance.
- ___ 3. I have enclosed \$400. payment in full.

6. Did you make friends easily while growing up?
7. Did you have any problems growing up? (physical / emotional)
8. How did you do in elementary / secondary school?
9. Did you get along with teachers and the other students?
10. Anything you especially did not like about school?
11. How much education do you have?
12. What were some of the jobs you had after high school?
13. If you attended college, how did you get along with teachers, students, and friends there?
14. Describe your dating experience prior to meeting your former spouse. (Did you have many other dating experiences?)

15. What is your current profession, and for how long?

- a. My profession:
b. How long?

16. Check Yes or No:

Were You:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Erratic
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Jealous
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Nervous
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Selfish
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Dishonest
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Irresponsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Unpredictable
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Quick tempered
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Insensitive to others
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Inclined to violent rages

Did you have problems with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Drugs
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Alcohol
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Holding a job
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Handling money
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Establishing goals
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Getting along with people
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Following through with plan

If "yes" to any of the above, please explain.

[Failure to offer adequate explanations may delay your case.]

17. BEFORE the wedding describe YOUR attitudes about:

a. Wanting or not wanting children.

b. Limiting the number of children.

c. Practicing or not practicing birth control.

d. Marriage is "for better or worse, until death do us part".

e. Getting divorced and re-married if the marriage didn't work.

f. Having sex only with your spouse.

g. Having sex with someone other than your spouse.

h. Being pressured into marriage.

II.

RESPONDENT:

1. Describe your former spouse's parents' relationship with each other.

2. Describe your former spouse's relationship with his/her parents.

3. Does your former spouse have brothers and sisters? How many? Did they get along?

4. Did his/her extended family get along?

5. How important was religion in your former spouse's home of origin?

6. While growing up did your former spouse make friends easily?

7. Did your former spouse have problems growing up?

(physical / emotional)

8. How did your former spouse do in elementary / secondary school?

9. Did your former spouse get along with teachers, other students?

10. Anything your former spouse especially disliked about school?

11. How much education does your former spouse have?

12. What jobs did your former spouse have after high school?

13. If your former spouse attended college, how did he/she get along with teachers, and students there?

14. Describe your former spouse' dating experience prior to meeting you. (Did he/she have many other dating experiences?)

15. What is your former spouse's current profession. How long?

a. Profession:

- b. Limiting the number of children.
- c. Practicing or not practicing birth control.
- d. Marriage is "for better or worse, until death do us part".
- e. Getting divorced and re-married if the marriage didn't work.
- f. Having sex only with your spouse.
- g. Having sex with someone other than your spouse.
- h. Being pressured into marriage.

III. DATING AND ENGAGEMENT:

1. How did you meet your former spouse?
2. What were your ages when you first met?

a. You: _____ b. Former spouse: _____

3. What attracted YOU to your former spouse?

4. What attracted your FORMER SPOUSE to you?

5. How long, and how often did you date? Describe your dates.

6. Were there problems during the dating period?
____ Yes ____ No If "yes", please explain.

7. What did YOUR parents, family, and friends think about the relationship?

8. What did your FORMER SPOUSE'S parents, family, and friends think about the relationship?

9. While dating, did you think there was anything odd, unusual, or strange about your former spouse? Anything that bothered you?

10. Who proposed marriage? Why?

a. Who:

b. Why:

11. Was there an engagement period? How long was it?

12. Were there problems during the engagement period?

13. What did YOUR parents, family, and friends think about the engagement?

14. What did your FORMER SPOUSE's parents, family, and friends think about the engagement?

15. Where YOU reluctant or pressured to marry? Please Explain.

16. Was your FORMER SPOUSE reluctant or pressured to marry?

17. Did you and your former spouse work together planning the wedding?

_____ Yes _____ No If "No", please explain.

18. Were both families involved in wedding preparations?

_____ Yes _____ No If "No", please explain.

19. Before the actual wedding, did you:

_____ Yes _____ No a. Both attend Pre-Cana?

_____ Yes _____ No b. Both attend an Engaged Encounter?

_____ Yes _____ No c. Both receive in-depth instructions
from a Catholic priest or deacon on
the Sacrament of Matrimony?

_____ Yes _____ No d. For a non-Catholic wedding: did
you both receive instructions from
your minister on the seriousness, and
mutual responsibilities of marriage?

20. If you and your former spouse did NOT receive any pre-marriage preparation or instructions, please explain.

21. What did the priest, minister, or civil magistrate who married you think about the marriage?

IV. WEDDING, RECEPTION, HONEYMOON:

1. Was this the first marriage for you and your former spouse?

_____ Yes _____ No If "No", please explain.

2. Explain your frame of mind on the day of the wedding, including at the church, or the wedding site.

a. Your frame of mind:

b. Former spouse's frame of mind:

3. What were your ages on the day of the wedding?

a. You: _____ b. Former spouse: _____

4. Were there any unusual events on the wedding day?

_____ Yes _____ No If "yes", please explain.

5. Where and how long was the honeymoon?

6. Was the honeymoon a pleasant experience? _____ Yes _____ No
If "No", please explain.

7. IF you were Catholic and married civilly, and then had the marriage validated in the Catholic Church, please explain your understanding of this second Church ceremony.

a. Your understanding:

b. Former spouse' understanding:

V. THE MARRIAGE:

1. How long did you actually live together as husband and wife?
(weeks, months, or years)
2. When did problems first begin? (before, weeks, months, years?)
3. Describe these problems.
4. How did you and your former spouse respond to these problems?
 - a. You?
 - b. Your former spouse?
5. What influence did family / friends have on your marriage?
 - a. Your family / friends:
 - b. Former spouse' family / friends:
6. Please comment on the effect these issues had on your marriage:
 - a. A breakdown in communication.

- b. The loss of shared goals and interests.
 - c. Sexual incompatibility.
 - d. Sexual infidelity.
 - e. Conflicts about children.
 - f. Alcohol / drug abuse.
 - g. Religion / in-laws.
 - h. Jobs / careers / money.
 - i. Verbal / emotional abuse.
 - j. Violence / physical abuse.
 - k. Sexual abuse.
7. Do you think you and your former spouse ever grew together in a close and loving partnership?
- a. You:
 - b. Do you think your former spouse would agree?

8. Do you feel you ever had a close and happy life together?
 - a. You:

 - b. Do you think your former spouse would agree?

9. How soon after the wedding day was there a pregnancy?
(before, weeks, months, years,)

10. How did you react upon the discovery of this pregnancy?
 - a. You:

 - b. Former spouse:

11. How many children were born to this marriage? _____

12. How did you treat your children?
 - a. You:

 - b. Former spouse:

13. Did you make plans for your children's education and future?

14. Were there any separations during your marriage? How many?

15. What caused these marital separations?

16. What caused the FINAL separation?

17. Between the final separation and divorce, were any attempts made to get back together?

18. If neither of you have remarried, do you see any hope of you and your former spouse getting back together?

_____ Yes _____ No If "yes", please explain.

19. What were your attitudes toward professional counseling?

a. You:

b. Former spouse:

20. Did either of you seek any form of counseling? (from a priest, psychiatrist, counselor, or family doctor)

_____ Yes _____ No Please explain.

VI. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE:

1. Who filed for divorce?

2. Why?

3. Has your former spouse remarried?

____ Yes ____ No If "yes", how many times? _____

4. Have YOU remarried and AGAIN divorced?

____ Yes ____ No If "yes", please give details below.

Name of Spouse	Date of Marriage	Date of Divorce
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. Are you presently married? _____ If NO, skip to question #6.

a. What is the name of your present spouse?

b. Was your present spouse ever married before?

____ Yes ____ No If "yes", how many times? _____

c. Petitioner's PRESENT spouse:

_____ has never been married before

_____ widow / widower

_____ companion marriage case(s) enclosed

d. Present spouse's religion? _____

e. Any children born from this marriage? _____

f. Please describe your relationship with your present spouse.

6. If you INTEND to remarry, please answer the following:

a. Name of your intended spouse: _____

b. His/her religion: _____

c. Was your intended spouse ever married before?

____ Yes ____ No If "yes", how many times? _____

d. Petitioner's INTENDED spouse:

_____ has never been married before
_____ widow / widower
_____ companion marriage case(s) enclosed

7. Why are you asking the tribunal for a declaration of nullity?

I HAVE STATED THE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, SO HELP ME GOD.

III. Petitioner signature: _____