

Petition for a Formal Case for the Tribunal of the Diocese of Tyler.

This petition should be completed in consultation with a priest, deacon, or trained advocate.

It is provided in electronic format to make it easier for the Petitioner. It is important that all questions be answered.

If there are any problems or questions you can refer them to [tribunal@dioceseoftyler.org](mailto:tribunal@dioceseoftyler.org)

God bless,  
Fr. Gavin N. Vaverek  
Posted March 3, 2003

TIPS ON FILLING OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please read through the entire form before answering any questions. Think how you will explain your situation.
2. Be complete and offer examples where needed. Explain your thoughts, feelings and attitudes.  
  
Give clear and detailed information: A follow-up interview will be required if information is unclear, or inadequate.
3. If you are having difficulty, please call your Auditor or the Tribunal for help.
4. **Please TYPE or use INK. DO NOT use pencil.**  
**\* Make sure handwriting is legible. \***
5. The Petitioner answers this **entire** form. A separate form will be mailed to the Respondent, (former spouse). **It is a **\*\*good idea to keep a COPY of your completed questionnaire.****
6. If more space is needed, you may insert additional pages where needed. If you respond in the form of a letter or essay, please make sure you discuss all the issues mentioned in the questionnaire.
7. **\*\* If answering on separate pages using a personal computer be sure to include the question within your answer so we will know what question is being addressed!**
8. **WITNESSES: \*\* At least two good witnesses are required.\*\***
  - a) **Witnesses should have sound knowledge of your situation: background, courtship, and/or marriage.**
  - b) **Contact witnesses and get permission BEFORE you submit their names and addresses to the Tribunal.**
  - c) **The Tribunal will contact your witnesses and secure their testimony.**
  - d) **Explain in writing if you are unable to locate, or have no witnesses that know of your former marriage. Sometimes we must rely on character references.**
9. Please give serious thought to the following:  
  
**Agreement to defray expenses,  
Agreement NOT to set a wedding date,**
10. **Make sure you SIGNED your petition in three places.**

revised 03/14/00

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Civil marriage Validated in Catholic Church? / / Yes / / No

**DIVORCE:** (Enclose certified copy of divorce decree)

County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Z: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Z: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Z: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Z: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

AGREEMENT OF PETITIONER:

I, the undersigned Petitioner, understand and agree that:

1. My petition for a declaration of invalidity does not guarantee that it will be granted.
2. I may **NOT** set a wedding date approved by the Catholic Church before I receive notice that my petition for invalidity has been granted by Tyler and ratified by the Appellate Court.

I. \_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner signature

Petitioner Fee Agreement

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check ONE option, and **sign**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I am **unable** to meet the litigation fee of \$375.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I will make payments towards the \$375. fee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I am enclosing a deposit of: \$ 25. 50. 75. 100.  
and will make payments towards the balance:
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I have enclosed a check for \$375. with my petition.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I will meet the entire litigation fee of \$375. when  
my case is completed.

II. \_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner signature

\* Additional companion case(s) will be processed for \$60 each.

\* Checks should be made payable to the  
**ADIOCESE OF TYLER@**

Mail to: Diocese of Tyler  
**ATRIBUNAL@**  
1015 ESE Loop 323  
Tyler TX 75701-9663



I. PETITIONER: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe your parent's relationship with each other while you were growing up.

2. Describe your relationship with your parents.

3. Describe your relationships with your brothers/sisters, if any.

4. How did you get along with your extended family - aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, etc.

5. How important was religion in your home of origin?

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 and secondary school?
  
9. Did you get along with teachers and the other students?
  
10. Describe the things you liked and didn't like in school.
  - a. I liked:
  
  
  - b. I did not like:
  
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. What is your current profession, and for how long?
  - a. My profession:
  
  - b. How long?





8. How did your former spouse do in elementary / secondary school?
9. Did your former spouse get along with teachers, other students?
10. Describe things your former spouse liked and didn't like in school:
- He/she liked:
- He/she didn't like:
11. How much education does your former spouse have?
12. What jobs has your former spouse had after high school?
13. If your former spouse attended college, how did he/she get along with teachers, and students there?
14. What is your former spouse's current profession. How long?
- a. Profession:
- b. How long?



16. BEFORE the actual 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?

16. BEFORE the wedding, describe your former spouse' attitudes:

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?

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

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:

c. Where:

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

12. Were there problems during the engagement period?

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

14. What did your FORMER SPOUSE's parents and friends think?

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

16. Was your FORMER SPOUSE reluctant; pressured to marry? Explain.

17. Did you and your former spouse work together in making the wedding plans?

\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_ No    If "No", please explain.

18. Were both families involved in making the wedding plans?

\_\_\_\_ 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  
instructor on the Sacrament of  
Matrimony in the Church?  
(not just filling out the papers)

\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_ No    d. For a non-Catholic wedding: did  
you both receive in-depth  
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. Please explain your frame of mind on the day of the wedding, especially 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 in a civil ceremony, and then had the marriage validated in the Catholic Church, please explain your understanding of this second Church ceremony.

(\* This is very important.)

Your understanding:

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 and 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 were ever growing in your love together?

a. You:

b. Former spouse:

8. Do you feel you ever got along in a close and happy family?

a. You:

b. Former spouse:

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, please explain if there were any attempts 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, psychologist, 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 &  
submit the proper form(s): Ligamen,  
Lack of Form, or Formal Petition)

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

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. How many 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: \_\_\_\_\_

AUDITOR OBSERVATIONS

Please write your observations concerning your interview with the  
Petitioner and any personal knowledge you have regarding this case.

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Advocate / Auditor

AUDITOR CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_ 1. Complete mailing addresses of:  
    \_\_\_ Petitioner      \_\_\_ Respondent      \_\_\_ Witnesses
- \_\_\_ 2. IF Catholic marriage: complete name and address of Church where the marriage was celebrated.  
    \_\_\_ Pre-nuptial investigation papers available?
- \_\_\_ 3. IF Catholic: a newly dated copy of Baptismal certificate should be enclosed.
- \_\_\_ 4. Certified copy of civil marriage license. \*IF there was a validation, enclose certificate of that ceremony.
- \_\_\_ 5. Certified copy of divorce decree.
- \_\_\_ 6. Witnesses testimony or complete addresses included?
- \_\_\_ 7. Petitioner has answered questions sufficiently?
- \_\_\_ 8. Petitioner agreed not to set a wedding date until notified of the Tribunal's decision.
- \_\_\_ 9. Petitioner signed in all necessary places: the petition agreement, agreement to defray expenses, and deposition.
- \_\_\_ 10. Auditor included his/her signed observations.
- \_\_\_ 11. All companion marriage cases are being addressed, and submitted at the same time.

\* \* \* Please include TRIBUNAL in the mailing address. \* \* \*

Forward all documents to:

Diocese of Tyler  
TRIBUNAL  
1015 ESE Loop 323  
Tyler, TX 75701-9663

(903) 534-1077

revised 01/01/00