Determining Which Type of Case to Pursue

Natural Marriage

A marriage between two non-baptized people **or** between a non-baptized person and a baptized person.

*Can be dissolved.

Sacramental Marriage

A marriage between two validly baptized people.

*Cannot be dissolved once consummated.

COMMON TYPES OF CASES

Prior Bond

A marriage is invalid because one party was validly married before and the prior spouse was still living at the time of consent.

LACK OF FORM

A marriage is invalid because two Catholic persons married outside of the Catholic Church or because a Catholic married a non-Catholic outside of the Church without a dispensation.

Formal Annulment Case

A presumably valid marriage is actually invalid because there was never a valid exchange of consent, often due to a psychological incapacity or an exclusion of an obligation of marriage.

Pauline Privilege

Dissolves a valid marriage.

Both parties were unbaptized at the time of the wedding but since then the petitioner has been baptized or intends to be baptized and to marry someone else in the Catholic Church.

Favor of the faith

Dissolves a valid marriage.
One party was unbaptized throughout the entire relationship. Now, the petitioner wants to marry someone else in the Catholic Church.

EXERCISES

C = Catholic person

B = Baptized person

NB = Non-Baptized Person

Jim and Jane, Catholics, married in a civil ceremony. They divorced, and Jim now wants to marry Cindy, a Baptist.

Parties	Service	Type	Presumed Validity	Best Case Option
Jim (C) + Jane (C)	Civil	N.A.	✕	Lack of Form

Jim, a Hindu man, married Jane, a Hindu woman, in Hindu ceremony. They divorced, and Jim now wishes to be baptized and marry Cindy, a Catholic.

Parties	Service	Type	Presumed Validity	Best Case Option
Jim (NB) + Jane (NB)	Hindu	Natural	✓	Pauline

Jim, a Buddhist man, married Jane, a Buddhist woman, in a civil ceremony. They divorced, and Jim now wishes to marry Cindy, a Catholic, but has no intention of receiving baptism.

Parties	Service	Type	Presumed Validity	Best Case Option
Jim (NB) + Jane (NB)	Civil	Natural	✓	Favor of the Faith

Jim, a Catholic man, married Jane, a Baptist woman, in Baptist ceremony. They divorced, and Jim now wants to marry Cindy, a Catholic.

Parties	Service	Type	Presumed Validity	Best Case Option
Jim (C) + Jane (B)	Baptist	N.A.	✕	Lack of Form

Jim and Jane, Episocapalians, married in an Episcopalian ceremony. They divorced, and Jim now wants to marry Cindy, a Catholic.

Parties	Service	Type	Presumed Validity	Best Case Option
Jim (B) + Jane (B)	Episcopalian	Sacramental	✓	Formal

Jim and Jane, Buddhists, married in a Buddhist ceremony. They divorced, and Jim married Cindy, a Methodist, in a Methodist ceremony. Jim and Cindy divorced, and now Jim wishes to be baptized and to marry Rose, a Catholic.

Parties	Service	Type	Presumed Validity	Best Case Option
Jim (NB) + Jane (NB)	Buddhist	Natural	✓	Pauline Privege
Jim (NB) + Cindy (B)	Methodist	N.A.	✗	Prior Bond

Both cases are needed since Jim is the one who wants to remarry.

Jim and Jane, baptized non-denominational Christians, married in a civil ceremony. They divorced, and Jim married Cindy, a Baptist, in a Baptist ceremony. Jim and Cindy divorced, and now Cindy wishes to marry Clint, a Catholic.

Parties	Service	Type	Presumed Validity	Best Case Option
Jim (B) + Jane (B)	Civil	Sacramental	✓	
Jim (B) + Cindy (B)	Baptist	N.A.	✗	Prior Bond

Only a prior bond case is needed since Cindy is the one who wants to remarry.

Jim, a Catholic, and Jane, a Presbyterian, married in a Presbyterian ceremony. They divorced, and Jane married Clint, a Presbyterian, in a Presbyterian ceremony. Jane and Clint divorced, and now Clint wishes to marry Cindy, a Catholic.

Parties	Service	Type	Presumed Validity	Best Case Option
Jim (C) + Jane (B)	Presbyterian	N.A.	✗	
Jane (B) + Clint (B)	Presbyterian	Sacramental	✓	Formal

Only a formal case is needed since Clint is the one who wants to remarry.

Jim and Jane, non-baptized atheists, married in a civil ceremony. During their marriage, Jim got baptized Methodist. They divorced, and Jim married Cindy, a Methodist, in a civil ceremony. Jim and Cindy divorced, and Jim married Rose, a Baptist, in a Baptist ceremony. Jim and Rose divorced and now Jim wants to marry Sara, a Catholic in the Catholic Church. Sara was previously married to Clint, a Catholic, in the Catholic Church, but they divorced.

Parties	Service	Type	Presumed Validity	Best Case Option
Jim (NB/B) + Jane (NB)	Civil	Natural	✓	Favor of the Faith
Jim (B) + Cindy (B)	Civil	N.A.	✗	Prior Bond
Jim (B) + Rose (B)	Baptist	N.A.	✗	Prior Bond
Sara (C) + Clint (C)	Catholic	Sacramental	✓	Formal

If it is not possible to prove the non-baptism of Jane, all of Jim's cases will need to be formal.