



## Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

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### PETITION FOR A DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE APPLICATION FORM

#### INSTRUCTIONS

In order to present your case to the Tribunal, we ask you to complete the following form. This form should be filled out with the pastoral minister handling your case, who will ordinarily also become your Procurator-Advocate. In approaching the Tribunal, you are asking us to examine thoroughly a marital relationship and to make a judgment as to whether or not this relationship may be declared null (invalid) in the Catholic Church.

The present form can be filled in either by hand or on the computer. If you choose to use your computer, you will need the program Adobe Acrobat Reader (or equivalent), which you can download for free from the website [adobe.com](http://adobe.com). Do not use your browser, as it won't allow you to save your file. If you choose to handwrite your answers, **please write legibly**. In any case, do not forget to sign where it is indicated.

Please answer all the questions as completely as possible. Taking some time now will save you time later.

In this questionnaire, you are the "Petitioner", and the other spouse to the marriage in question is the "Respondent".

Since marriage involves two people and the decision of the Tribunal judges will affect both parties, we must invite the participation of your former spouse. We will ask him/her for information similar to that which we now ask of you. Therefore, to prevent ill feelings, if you have contact with your former spouse, please inform him/her that you are beginning this process. The purpose of the annulment process is not to place fault or blame on any party but rather to investigate the existence of a bond of marriage between the couple. The mailing address of the Respondent is extremely important. Making sure that the address is correct will avoid delays. If you are unable to provide the address for the Respondent, you will have to provide documentation of your efforts in trying to locate it.

If you, the Respondent, or your witnesses change addresses, notify the Tribunal as soon as possible.

It is not possible to know in advance how long this process will take. Generally, a case takes 10-15 months to complete. Do not set a date for a wedding before this process has finished.

If, through this process, a Declaration of Nullity is granted, it will not affect the natural and civil obligations created by this marriage, such as the legitimacy of children, child support, visitation rights, or alimony. This process is conducted exclusively to determine the validity of the religious dimension of your marriage in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel and the Roman Catholic Church; the outcome of this process does not have civil effects.

In order to handle our heavy caseload, it is necessary for the Tribunal to maintain an efficient office staff. We request a fee of two hundred dollars (\$200), even though the total cost to process a case is in excess of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500). The Diocese and parishes make up the difference. Please understand, however, that no one is ever turned away from this Tribunal because of their inability to pay a fee for our professional services. If you have a serious difficulty in paying the fee, discuss this with your Procurator-Advocate, who can request the parish to cover the fee, or can request for the Bishop to lower or dispense with the fee altogether.

**Before filling out this form for a Declaration of Nullity, please read the form in its entirety with your Advocate. Study each question carefully and think how you will answer the question. Please don't panic when you see the number of questions. The various types of questions are very important to make a proper assessment of your former marriage. Please give serious thought to each question and answer as fully as possible. This will help your case.**

Thank you for your cooperation in all these matters.

## DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

*Please submit the following documents along with this form. **You must send an original or official document and not photocopies.** An original or official document is one provided to you from a proper source, certified, and either is imprinted with a seal and/or an original signature of a proper authority testifying to its authenticity. **No photocopies of originals or official documents can be accepted.** Failure to comply will delay the acceptance of the case.*

**Civil and Church Documents**

- ☐ Complete and accurate mailing address of the Respondent. If you do not know it, you must prove of your efforts to locate the Respondent. No petition can be accepted without this information.
- ☐ Recent Baptismal Certificate for any Catholic party, issued within the last 6 months. If you are a Catholic now, but you were baptized in a non-Catholic community, certificate of your reception/profession of faith in the Catholic Church. This may be obtained from the parish where you were baptized.
- ☐ Civil Marriage License Record or Application **for all marriages including Catholic** (Obtainable from the county which issued the original document. In Alabama, may be obtained from any County Health Dept.)
- ☐ Catholic Marriage Certificate [If marriage was convalidated (blessed) in the Catholic Church, a Church marriage certificate from the Church of marriage is needed.]
- ☐ Civil Decree of Divorce for the marriage in question (containing judge's signature). [Obtainable from the county which issued the original document.] In Alabama, the "Divorce Certificate" may be obtained from any County Health Department

**Also include:**

- ☐ Signed Agreement of Understanding (p. 3)
- ☐ Signed Mandate of Appointment of Advocate (p. 21)
- ☐ Signed "Irreparably Broken" Form (p. 20)
- ☐ Signed Petition page (last page)
- ☐ Signed Acceptance of the Electronic Transmission of Data policy (p. 4)
- ☐ Completed Autobiographical Essay
- ☐ Names of at least 3 Witnesses (p. 17)
- ☐ Any other original documents which could have a bearing on this case:
  - Letters or diaries
  - civil court records, agreements
  - medical or police records
- ☐ Small photo of yourself
- ☐ Fee of \$200 made payable to The Tribunal, Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama
- ☐ Expert witness information if applicable (p. 18)

**\*\*\*Please keep a copy of any documents you submit to the Tribunal, in case they are lost in the mail.\*\*\***

For Tribunal Use: Date Received

Prot. Num.

### AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

1. I understand that, if the Tribunal accepts my case for consideration, it cannot and does not guarantee that an affirmative decision will be given in the case.
2. I understand that the Tribunal cannot ever guarantee that a case will be concluded by a certain date. I understand a case takes 10-15 months on average to complete. I agree to wait until I receive a final decision in writing from the Tribunal before I set a definite date for a marriage in the Catholic Church.
3. I understand and accept that Church law obligates the Tribunal to contact the Respondent and present him or her with the opportunity to participate in the process. Therefore, I acknowledge that I must provide the Tribunal with the full current address of my former spouse. All reasonable efforts to locate my former spouse must be exhausted to the satisfaction of the Tribunal. The requirement of contacting my former spouse may be omitted only in the most extreme circumstances, and only then with the approval of the Judicial Vicar.
4. I understand that I must contact my witnesses personally to inform them that I have started this case. I will ask my witnesses to respond to the Tribunal.
5. I understand that the Tribunal of the Diocese of Birmingham, in the investigation of the case, may employ the services of a court expert or other expert witness and I hereby authorize the Tribunal to disclose complete information concerning my case to such a professional for case review. Upon completion of the case, I also authorize the Tribunal to release information regarding the case to a psychological expert, counselor, priest, or deacon for follow-up counseling as well as for pre-marital preparation presently or in the future. It is understood that otherwise all contents of this investigation will be kept confidential, reserved exclusively to the parties to the case and to the staff of the Tribunal, according to the canon law of the Roman Catholic Church.
6. I understand that if, with occasion of the instruction of the case, the Tribunal were to learn about specific information, then by law the Tribunal may be required to report such information to legal authorities. Such information may include names or situations in which a minor has been subjected to physical or sexual abuse or neglect. I release the Diocese of Birmingham and its agents from any liability for disclosure of information to appropriate legal authorities about abuse of a minor.
7. I also understand that if, with occasion of the instruction of the case, the Tribunal were to learn about specific information regarding abuse (past or present) by clergy or other professional employees or volunteers of the various parishes and institutions of the Roman Catholic Church, this information will be reported to the Office of the Bishop of Birmingham.
8. In order to assist the Tribunal to maintain an atmosphere of candor and openness in testimony and in recognition of the spiritual and religious nature of these proceedings, I voluntarily waive now, and in the future, any rights under civil law to subpoena the acts of the case in judicial discovery. This waiver is given without reservation, condition, or limit of time.
9. I agree to keep confidential and secret any information that I shall learn in the course of the proceeding because all testimony in this case is given for the possible ecclesiastical declaration of nullity of my marriage; and, because my interest is solely to present my case to the Tribunal, I promise not to use information that I may learn through the case in any other forum or for any other purpose.
10. I understand that a fee may be charged for any cases submitted to the Tribunal of Birmingham. I acknowledge that a fee will be assessed in a case transmitted to Rome on appeal and that the party who initiates the appeal will be responsible for the fee.

Accepted in (City, State) \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Signature of the Petitioner

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Signature of the Advocate

## ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF DATA

The use of new technologies allows for more expedience and convenience in our communications. If you are willing to receive our communications electronically, please sign the acceptance below.

*Definition of electronic case file transmission:* For the purposes of this agreement, electronic transmission of data refers to the communication of information pertaining to the case, between the Petitioner and the Tribunal, via email and/or other appropriate electronic means.

*Benefits of electronic case file transmission:* The electronic transmission of case information reduces costs through the diminishment of paper consumption as well as postal fees. In addition to being cost-efficient, this also reduces delivery time and permits the rapid dissemination of information to all case handlers and case parties.

*Risks of electronic case file transmission:* Electronic transmission of case information presents an inherent level of risk to the confidentiality of information related to a Petitioner's case file. Although the email server of the Tribunal is encrypted, and documents are password-protected in an effort to maintain case file confidentiality, electronic transmission of material cannot guarantee confidentiality. By signing below and utilizing the electronic transmission system, the Petitioner acknowledges and agrees to the information and terms contained herein, and further waives any and all claims against, and agrees to hold harmless the Bishop of Birmingham, the Tribunal and any sender of case information via electronic transmission, with respect to any and all claims, loss and/or damage arising from and/or related to the electronic transmission of case information.

*Parties who may receive electronic case file transmission:* Case information may be sent electronically from the Tribunal to the following parties: Judges, Psychologists, Counselors, Petitioner and/or Respondent Advocates, Defender of the Bond, Promoter of Justice, and Court of Second Instance.

I have read and understand the information provided to me regarding the Tribunal's release of information through electronic means, and I agree to the terms.

**Are you willing to receive communications electronically from the Tribunal?** ☐ Yes ☐ No.

Accepted in (City, State) \_\_\_\_\_,

on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Advocate

**PETITIONER'S GENERAL INFORMATION**Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you baptized before the marriage in question? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, Church or denomination of baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Current religion or denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Current parish or congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any Eastern Rite (Catholic or Orthodox) affiliation in your family background (Byzantine, Melkite, Ukrainian, Maronite, Greek Catholic, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, which? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you and the Respondent in regular contact? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you notify the Respondent that you are applying for a declaration of nullity? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, why didn't you notify the Respondent? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you understand that the Respondent has the right to participate actively in this case? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think that the Respondent will participate actively in this case? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONDENT'S GENERAL INFORMATION**Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Before marrying you, was the Respondent baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, Church or denomination of baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Current religion or denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Current parish or congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any Eastern Rite affiliation (Catholic or Orthodox) in the Respondent's family background (Byzantine, Ukrainian, Maronite, Greek Catholic, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, which? \_\_\_\_\_

### UNLOCATABLE RESPONDENT

The address of the Respondent is extremely important. If you are unable to provide a valid address for the Respondent, you need to make all the efforts suggested below that are applicable to your case. **Otherwise, the Petition will be returned to you for completion.**

Explain why it is impossible for you to provide a valid address for the Respondent:

Indicate which efforts you have made to locate the Respondent, and attach the documentation to prove that you tried them.

If you are unable to use any of these search options, you must explain why.

You must also explain why your efforts were unsuccessful.

#### YES    N/A

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Known aliases, maiden, or former names   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Communication through adult children   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Communication through mutual friends and relatives   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Communication through former neighbors, co-workers, etc.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mailing a letter to the last known address   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Telephone Book or City Directory (available at Public Libraries)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Telephone Directory Assistance   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Last known telephone number  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Professional or trade organizations  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Respondent's divorce attorney  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social Security Records and Credit Records   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Motor Vehicle Records  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military records: U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard locator services   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Last known employment  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attorneys, investigators or other professionals  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Paid on-line search engines, like <a href="http://www.ussearch.com">www.ussearch.com</a> or <a href="http://www.whitepages.com">www.whitepages.com</a> |

If you need further information on how to locate the Respondent, please contact the Tribunal.

**OTHER MARRIAGES**

If either you or the Respondent has had more than one marriage, please list them all in chronological order. Please include all marriages, even those that were not celebrated in religious ceremonies.

Attach to this Petition all the documentation relative to each of these marriages: marriage certificate, civil divorce decree, ecclesiastical decree of dissolution or nullity, and death certificate if the person is deceased.

If either you or the Respondent has more than three marriages, please list them on a separate sheet of paper, including all the information requested below for each of the marriages.

**PETITIONER**

1) Name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this spouse deceased? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of Tribunal: \_\_\_\_\_

Case number and date: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this spouse deceased? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of Tribunal: \_\_\_\_\_

Case number and date: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this spouse deceased? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of Tribunal: \_\_\_\_\_

Case number and date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONDENT**

1) Name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this spouse deceased? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of Tribunal: \_\_\_\_\_

Case number and date: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this spouse deceased? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of Tribunal: \_\_\_\_\_

Case number and date: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this spouse deceased? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of Tribunal: \_\_\_\_\_

Case number and date: \_\_\_\_\_

**COURTSHIP**

When did you meet the Respondent? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you meet the Respondent?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Length of courtship until marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Was there an engagement period? \_\_\_\_\_

If there was no engagement, why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of engagement: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of engagement: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you live together before the wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how long before the wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

Was there a pregnancy before the wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, was it the reason why you married? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enter into a pre-nuptial agreement? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please attach a copy of the agreement to this Petition.

**WEDDING**

NOTE: For Catholics, "wedding" means the wedding in the Catholic Church, not the civil ceremony.

Petitioner's age at the time of the wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Respondent's age at the time of the wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Officiant: ☐ Catholic priest or deacon☐ Other religious minister☐ Civil official☐ Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of officiant: \_\_\_\_\_

Church or place of marriage:

\_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Catholics:** Did you and the Respondent celebrate a civil wedding before the one in the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of officiant: \_\_\_\_\_

Venue: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you marry afterwards in the Catholic Church?  
(this is also called sometimes a *blessing* or *convalidation*)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SEPARATION**

Number of separations during the marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of the first separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of final separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of married life until final separation: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the cause for the final separation?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CIVIL DIVORCE**☐ Civil Divorce or ☐ Civil Annulment?☐ No-fault or ☐ For cause?

If it was for cause, please describe briefly:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who applied for the divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of divorce or annulment: \_\_\_\_\_

Court: \_\_\_\_\_

County, State: \_\_\_\_\_



**CHILDREN**

Dates of birth or adoption of all the children you had or adopted:

Name	Date of birth or adoption

Who now has legal custody of the children? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there current problems or disputes concerning visitation, custody, or support payments? \_\_\_\_\_

If there are current problems or disputes, describe briefly:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there any ongoing or pending litigation in the civil Courts between you and the Respondent? \_\_\_\_\_

If there are ongoing or pending litigations, describe briefly:

\_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER QUESTIONS**

Are you enrolled in RCIA? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, in which parish? \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Have you civilly married since your divorce with the Respondent? \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer is yes, please explain briefly:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever petitioned for a declaration of nullity of this marriage before other Church Tribunals? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of Tribunal: \_\_\_\_\_

Case number and date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENT MARITAL STATUS**

Do you have plans to marry in the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you: ☐ Single ☐ Engaged ☐ Remarried

If you are civilly married to your intended spouse:

Date of civil marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

First name of intended spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Was your intended spouse ever married before?

☐ Yes ☐ No How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how did the marriage end? ☐ Divorce ☐ Death

Has your intended spouse ever petitioned for a declaration of nullity? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list name of Tribunal, case number and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, be sure to speak with your Advocate or Pastor about this.

## AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY OUTLINE

*Please develop an autobiographical essay using the following statements and questions as a guideline. It is important to attempt to address each of the statements and questions by developing your answer in sentence and paragraph form. There are eight major topic areas which we would like for you to cover as you write your essay. A descriptive answer containing specific examples will be most helpful in the annulment investigation. **Yes and No answers are NOT helpful. Please type or print** legibly on one side of 8-1/2-by-11-inch paper. **If possible, limit your essay to 15 typed double-spaced pages.***

### I. YOUR FAMILY BACKGROUND AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOU GREW UP

1. Describe in general terms your home situation as a child.
2. If you were reared outside of your family home, please explain.
3. Were both parents your natural parents? If no, please explain.
4. Describe the personalities of your parents and their relationship to one another.
5. What was the religion of your parents and to what extent did they practice it?
6. Were there any divorces, separations, or remarriages in your immediate family? If yes, please explain.
7. Describe the socio-economic background of your family.
8. Did your family move during your childhood? If so, how often?
9. Describe the use of alcohol/drugs in your family. *(For example, by parents, grandparents, siblings.)*
10. Did anyone in your family ever have legal problems which affected you personally or the family? If yes, please explain.
11. Describe how emotion was displayed in the family, how conflict was resolved, and how affection was communicated.
12. Was there evidence of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in the family? If yes, please explain.
13. Describe any serious health problems, recurring illnesses, or emotional problems or difficulties you or members of your family may have had while you were growing up. How old were you?
14. Was psychiatric/psychological care ever required by your parents or your brothers and sisters? If yes, please explain.
15. How many brothers and sisters did you have? What was your numerical position? How well did you get along with them and what is your present relationship with them?
16. How would you describe your role in the family?
17. Did you feel rejected at any time? Please describe.
18. Were you given independence and allowed to make your own decisions? Please give examples.
19. Did anything about your home situation influence your decision to marry? Please explain.
20. How well did your family background prepare you for marriage?

### II. YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. To what extent did you practice your religion?
2. At what age did you begin dating?
3. How was the topic of sex treated in your family?
4. How did you learn about sex?
5. How did you relate to people of the opposite sex? The same sex?
6. How did your parents feel about your dating patterns?

7. How old were you when you began to develop serious relationships? Please elaborate on the nature of these relationships.
8. Were you ever involved in a serious relationship prior to meeting your former spouse? How was it terminated?
9. What life goals did you develop during your adolescent period?
10. What was the highest grade level of education you completed? If you did not complete high school, please explain the reasons why.
11. Describe any problems you may have had with gambling, alcohol, or drug use or with law enforcement agencies.
12. Describe your job history between age 16 and your marriage.
13. Were you in military service before marriage? If yes, describe your duties and assignments. When and why did you enter? When and why did you leave? What type of discharge did you receive?
14. Please write about any other pertinent issues from your family or personal background that have not been addressed in the preceding statements or questions.

### **III. THE FAMILY BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENT OF YOUR FORMER SPOUSE**

*The following questions and statements are meant to comprehensively address issues in your former spouse's background. Please respond to the best of your ability.*

1. Describe in general terms your former spouse's home situation as a child, his or her parents' personalities, and their relationship to one another.
2. If your former spouse was reared outside of the family home, please explain.
3. Were both parents' natural parents? If not, please explain.
4. What was the religion of your former spouse's parents and to what extent did they practice it?
5. Were there any divorces, separations, or remarriages in your former spouse's immediate family? If yes, please explain.
6. Describe the socio-economic background of your former spouse's family.
7. Did your former spouse's family move during his/her childhood? If so, how often?
8. Describe any problems with gambling, alcohol or drugs, or law enforcement agencies that your former spouse or any members of your former spouse's family may have had.
9. Describe how in your former spouse's family emotion was displayed, conflict resolved, and affection communicated.
10. Was there evidence of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse?
11. Describe any recurring family problems such as chronic illness or unemployment. How old was your former spouse when these occurred?
12. Was psychiatric/psychological care ever required by your former spouse or his/her parents or siblings? If yes, please explain.
13. How many brothers and sisters did your former spouse have? What was your former spouse's numerical position? How well did your former spouse get along with them and what is your former spouse's present relationship with them?
14. How would you describe your former spouse's role in the family?
15. Did your former spouse feel rejected at any time? At what age(s)? Please describe.
16. Was your former spouse given independence and allowed to make decisions? Please give examples.
17. Did anything about your former spouse's home situation influence the decision to marry? Please explain.

18. Do you believe your former spouse's family background adequately prepared him/her for marriage? Please explain.

#### **IV. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR FORMER SPOUSE**

1. Did your former spouse have any serious health problems or recurring illnesses? Please explain.
2. To what extent did your former spouse practice his/her religion?
3. Did your former spouse experience any emotional difficulties while growing up?
4. At what age did your former spouse begin dating?
5. How did your former spouse's parents feel about his/her dating and/or dating patterns?
6. In general terms, how did your former spouse relate to people of the opposite sex? With the same sex?
7. Was your former spouse ever involved in any other serious relationship prior to meeting you? How was it terminated?
8. How was the topic of sex treated in your former spouse's family?
9. How did your former spouse learn about sex?
10. As your former spouse progressed through adolescence, what life goals did he/she develop?
11. What was the highest-grade level of education your former spouse completed? If your former spouse did not complete high school, please explain the reasons why.
12. Describe any problems your former spouse may have had with gambling, alcohol or drug use, or law enforcement agencies.
13. Describe briefly your former spouse's job history after age 16 and before marriage.
14. Was your former spouse in military service before your marriage? If yes, please describe his/her duties and assignments. When did your former spouse enter and what type of discharge did he/she receive? When and why did your former spouse leave?
15. Please include any other pertinent comments you would like to make about your former spouse's family or personal background before your marriage?

#### **V. COURTSHIP**

1. How and when did you meet your former spouse?
2. Were either of you on the rebound from another relationship?
3. How often did you date and what did you do on the dates?
4. What attracted you to each other?
5. At the time, what attitudes did each of you have toward premarital sex in your relationship?
6. Was there a premarital sexual relationship and, if so, to what extent did it affect your relationship?
7. Did you feel any pressure to maintain or continue the relationship during the courtship?
8. Describe your communication with each other during the courtship? Give examples.
9. What did you see in this person that motivated you to choose him/her as a marriage partner?
10. Who brought up the topic of marriage? How long did you know your former spouse before discussing marriage?
11. At the time of your marriage, did each of you feel that you could commit yourself to each other for the rest of your lives? If not, please explain.
12. Was there any indication that either of you thought lightly of fidelity prior to the marriage? If yes, please explain.

13. Were either of you involved with anyone other than your former spouse during the courtship? If yes, please explain.
14. Did either of you have a history of broken relationships prior to meeting each other?
15. Is there a history of infidelity in either of your family backgrounds? What about with close friends of either of you?
16. Did either of you ever discuss the possibility of giving each other the freedom to see others during the marriage?
17. Did either of you ever envision a set of circumstances which, if they came to pass, would end the marriage? For instance, spousal infidelity (If she ever cheated on me, I'd divorce her.), or spousal abuse (If he ever hit me, I'd be out the door.).
18. Was divorce ever discussed as a solution for future unhappiness?
19. During the courtship, did any relative or friend get a divorce? What attitudes/feelings were expressed at that time?
20. Do you see a difference in "hoping" your marriage will last forever and "intending" your marriage to last forever? Did you "hope" or "intend" permanence in your marriage? What about your former spouse?
21. Did either of you enter this marriage with the attitude "if this doesn't work out, we can always get divorced?" If yes, please explain.
22. Did you discuss any plans about having children? If yes, what were your plans?
23. Prior to the marriage, did either place any condition on the marriage such as "I will only marry if..." or "I will remain married to you provided that..." If yes, please explain.
24. Was there any quality about the other person that, had you been aware of it, you would never have entered the marriage? If yes, please explain.
25. Was there any force or fear used by anyone such as threats, physical harm, etc., to make either party marry? If yes, please explain.
26. Were there any conflicts related to careers, future family goals, and expectations? If yes, please explain.
27. What were you and your former spouse's career goals? Were they realized prior to your marriage?
28. Was there ever a pregnancy involved before marriage? If yes, how did it affect the decision to marry?
29. Did any other factor hasten your decision to marry?
30. Were there any premarital instructions given by a priest or minister? Did you attend any Pre-Cana program? Did either occasion cause any questions or problems?
31. Were there any arguments during the courtship? Over what issues? How did these conflicts affect the relationship?
32. Describe any emotional, sexual, or physical abuse.
33. Were there any interruptions or breakups during the courtship? If yes, please describe them.
34. Did you have any concerns about your former spouse during the courtship? Please explain your answer.
35. Did either of you express a concern or doubt about the impending marriage? If yes, please explain.
36. What were your families' reactions to your engagement?
37. Did you and/or your former spouse sign a prenuptial agreement? If YES, what did it cover and why was it necessary? Can you furnish us with a copy? If so, please enclose.
38. What was your respective use of alcohol/drugs during the courtship? Please describe.
39. What was the attitude of each of you toward the practice of religion? Was there any conflict about this?
40. Describe any significant physical, emotional, psychological, or psychiatric problems either of you may have had during the courtship. How were they treated?

41. Did either of you enter military duty during the courtship? If yes, when and why? How did this affect the relationship?
42. During your courtship, do you think you were both sufficiently mature and emotionally stable to enter into marriage? If not, please explain.
43. Do you think you both had an adequate understanding of what married life entailed? If not, please explain.
44. Are there any other pertinent issues about the courtship you would like to mention that have not been expressed in the previous responses?
45. How long did you date before getting engaged? Who proposed? When? How long were you engaged before your marriage?

## **VI. WEDDING AND HONEYMOON**

1. In what ways did you and your former spouse share in the planning of your wedding?
2. Did either of you have any second thoughts in the final days leading up to the wedding? If yes, please explain. Was this discussed with anyone?
3. Did anyone express concerns or doubts to you as the wedding day approached? How did you respond?
4. Has anyone told you since about their doubts before the wedding?
5. What was your attitude during the wedding ceremony?
6. Were there any unusual incidents during the day?
7. Did you have a honeymoon? If yes, what was its duration?
8. Were there any unusual incidents during the honeymoon? If yes, please explain.
9. Was the marriage consummated at this time? If not, why? If not, when was the marriage consummated?

## **VII. MARRIED LIFE**

1. How would you describe your initial adjustments in the marriage?
2. Was your married life what you both expected it to be?
3. Discuss when you first became aware of serious problems?
4. Describe your mutual ability to communicate and share affection.
5. How were major decisions reached in the marriage?
6. Describe your respective relationship with friends during the marriage. Did either of you see these as a problem?
7. Describe your jobs and how they may have affected your marriage.
8. Did either of you have hobbies or outside interests that kept you away from each other and caused a problem?
9. Did you do things together? Please explain.
10. How did parents and in-laws influence the marriage?
11. Describe the usage of alcohol/drugs by each party during the marriage. Did either of you see the other's use of alcohol or drugs as a problem? Please explain.
12. Were either of you ever hospitalized or treated for emotional or psychological problems during the marriage? If yes, please explain.
13. Was gambling or financial irresponsibility evident during the marriage? Please explain.
14. Describe any marital infidelities that may have occurred.

15. Were either of you possessive, jealous, or mistrustful of the other person? If yes, please explain.
16. Describe and discuss any major disagreements in the marriage.
17. Did pregnancy and/or children adversely affect your marriage?
18. If you had children, how many and how well were they accepted and cared for by each of you?
19. If you did not have children, why not?
20. If you agreed to postpone children, please explain why and when this decision was made. Was it a mutual decision?
21. Describe to what extent contraceptives (birth control) were used in the marriage.
22. Did both of you act responsibly for the upkeep of the home and the family? If not, please explain.
23. Describe and discuss any emotional, sexual, or physical abuse.
24. Were there any sexual problems? Please explain.
25. Was the use of pornographic material by either of you ever a problem in the marriage? If so, please explain.
26. Did either of you exhibit any homosexual tendencies/behaviors during the marriage?
27. List the major problems, which, in your opinion, led to the marital breakdown.
28. How did you or your former spouse contribute to the marital breakdown?

#### **VIII. SEPARATION AND DIVORCE**

1. How many separations occurred during the marriage?
2. What was the cause of the final separation? Who left whom?
3. Were you convinced the marriage was over?
4. Describe any attempts at reconciliation and who made them?
5. Is there any possibility of reconciliation? Please explain.
6. Please feel free to mention anything else about your marriage that has not been expressed in your essay.

#### **IX. ALL OTHER ATTEMPTS TO MARRY**

If you attempted marriage by a civil official, minister or other official or live in a common-law marriage, please answer the following questions concerning each and every marriage you entered into. **Include present spouse if remarried civilly.**

1. How and when did you meet?
2. When did you become engaged and civilly married?
3. How long were you married?
4. How did the relationship differ from the marriage currently being examined?
5. Why was this marriage terminated?

**SPECIAL SECTION FOR CATHOLICS****X. CONVALIDATION (MARRIAGE CONTRACTED CIVILY THEN LATER VALIDATED (mistakenly called "blessed") IN CATHOLIC CHURCH)**

If the **civil marriage** was **later convalidated** (i.e., Marriage in the Catholic Church), include the following questions in your Autobiographical Essay.

1. At the time, you entered your **civil marriage** did you give a full, free consent to marriage?
2. After the **civil marriage**, did you consider yourself, at that point, truly married?
3. Why did this **civil marriage** take place outside the Catholic Church? Please give reasons in detail.
4. Was the time between the **civil marriage** and the convalidation (Catholic Marriage) a happy marriage? Please explain your answer.
5. Were there any major problems between the two of you at the time of this Catholic marriage? Please explain.
6. Why did you and your spouse go through a Catholic ceremony?
7. Who suggested it and why?
8. Were any other members of your family in sacrament preparation or desiring the reception of a sacrament (e.g., baptism, confirmation, first communion) at the time you decided to have your marriage convalidated/blessed?
9. Did this fact influence your decision to have your marriage blessed? How?
10. What was your own personal feeling about this blessing in the Catholic Church?
11. Did you already believe that you were truly married when you had married civilly? If so, why did you go through another ceremony in the Catholic Church?
12. Did your spouse feel that he/she was already married to you in the non-Catholic ceremony? If so, why did he/she go through this marriage in the Catholic Church?
13. At the Catholic ceremony did both you and your spouse feel that you were marrying for the first time, or did you feel that you were merely renewing your marriage promises of the first marriage which had taken place outside the Catholic Church?
14. Was there any opposition to this "Catholic marriage"?
15. Please describe any discussion or preparation that took place with the priest in arranging this marriage in the Catholic Church.
16. What do you remember about how the priest explained what you were doing?
17. Were either one of you practicing any religion at the time of the marriage in the Catholic Church?
18. What date did you celebrate as your wedding anniversary?



## WITNESSES

Please name **at least 3 witnesses** who know about the facts that you allege made your marriage invalid. The best witnesses are usually friends, co-workers, family members, roommates, or others who knew both you and the Respondent before the marriage and at the time of the wedding. It is essential that you do not instruct the witnesses what they are to tell to the Tribunal. They must give independent, honest testimony.

Before submitting their names, personally contact each witness and make sure they are willing to give their testimony. It is your responsibility to encourage your witnesses to respond in a timely fashion. It is the general policy of this Tribunal not to hear the testimony of the children of the parties.

The usual number of witnesses is between 3 and 5. In any case, the witnesses' quality is more important than their quantity.

### Witness 1

Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Did this person agree to be a witness? \_\_\_\_\_

### Witness 4

Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Did this person agree to be a witness? \_\_\_\_\_

### Witness 2

Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Did this person agree to be a witness? \_\_\_\_\_

### Witness 5

Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Did this person agree to be a witness? \_\_\_\_\_

### Witness 3

Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Did this person agree to be a witness? \_\_\_\_\_

### Witness 6

Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Did this person agree to be a witness? \_\_\_\_\_

### PROFESSIONAL OR EXPERT WITNESSES

The testimony of certain professionals and experts can be very useful to prove your case. Please indicate below what of the following professionals or experts you or the Respondent worked with, before, during and/or after the marriage, and who was seen by the professional or expert:

- |  |                                 |   |                               |
|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Counselor                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Myself | <input type="checkbox"/> The Respondent | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologist, Psychiatrist                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Myself | <input type="checkbox"/> The Respondent | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Social Worker                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Myself | <input type="checkbox"/> The Respondent | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Doctor or other health professional   | <input type="checkbox"/> Myself | <input type="checkbox"/> The Respondent | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral counselor, spiritual counselor       | <input type="checkbox"/> Myself | <input type="checkbox"/> The Respondent | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Priest, minister, or other religious official | <input type="checkbox"/> Myself | <input type="checkbox"/> The Respondent | <input type="checkbox"/> Both |

In order for the Tribunal to obtain their testimony, you must sign a Release of Confidentiality. If the Respondent was seen, he or she will need to sign a Release of Confidentiality as well. A release form is included on the next page. Are you willing to sign a release?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Expert's contact information:

#### Expert 1

Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate dates of consultation: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Expert 2

Language preferred: ☐ English ☐ Español

Title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate dates of consultation: \_\_\_\_\_

If you saw other professionals and experts whose testimony will be helpful for your case, please provide their contact information on a separate sheet of paper.

If psychiatric or psychological illness played a role in the problems of this marriage, it will be helpful to the case if you submit certified (notarized) copies of any medical or hospital records which show a diagnosis and treatment dates.

If physical abuse occurred in the marriage, it will be helpful to submit certified (notarized) copies of any records regarding this, such as medical, hospital, or police records.

**AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE PROTECTED HEALTH CARE INFORMATION**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ RE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Person or Organization Name of Patient

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

\_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates visited: \_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Regulations, 45 CFR §164.508, I hereby authorize the release to the **Marriage Tribunal Office of the Catholic Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama**, P.O. Box 12047, Birmingham, Alabama 35202-2047 or any of its representatives:

**XX** all records regarding mental health, psychiatric, chemical dependency.

The purpose of this authorization and request is to obtain ALL medical information pertaining to the patient and his/her physical and/or psychological condition, which may be relevant as it pertains to certain annulment proceedings. This authorization expires three (3) years from the date of the signature. The aforementioned expiration date has not passed, as this matter is ongoing. A photo static copy of this authorization shall be as valid as the original.

I understand that I have the right to revoke this authorization in writing by providing a signed, written notice of revocation to the above-named provider and to the Tribunal office of the Catholic Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama. Medical providers may not condition treatment or payment on whether the above-listed patient executes this authorization. The information disclosed pursuant to this authorization may be subject to re-disclosure and no longer protected by the privacy regulations promulgated pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

I understand that I have a right to receive a copy of this authorization.

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

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

## THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP IS IRREPARABLY BROKEN

Before a Decree of Nullity is granted it must be proven that the marriage has irreparably failed, and conjugal living cannot be restored.

The priest, deacon, or lay advocate preparing the case must discuss with the petitioner the reasons that the marriage cannot be saved.

Some indications may be:

1. Respondent is currently **re**-married and has children with the new spouse
2. Petitioner is currently **re**-married and has children with the new spouse
3. Divorce has existed for many years
4. **Re**-marriage of either spouse has existed for many years

At the time of the final separation and divorce did the couple seek or engage in any of the following:

- Attempted Counseling
- Meeting with clergy or pastor
- Was incarcerated
- Serious addiction habits
- Mental or physical abuse
- Other indications worthy of note

Space is provided below for the responses. This form must be signed by the Petitioner and Advocate.

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PETITIONER

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PRIEST, DEACON, LAY ADVOCATE

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DATE

## MANDATE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADVOCATE

I, the undersigned, do hereby nominate and constitute the person herein indicated to act as my Procurator-Advocate with the power of acting for me in my name before the Tribunal of the Diocese of Birmingham and of doing all things that may be useful and necessary for the furthering of my cause before this Tribunal of First Instance.

By means of this document, I also empower my Procurator-Advocate to be notified of the joinder of issues, the publication of the acts, of the conclusion of the case, and of the publication of the sentence.

I further nominate the same person to act as my Procurator-Advocate before the Tribunal of Second Instance, if applicable and necessary, if that court should permit him/her to act.

I hereby request the undersigned person, \_\_\_\_\_, to serve as my Procurator-Advocate in these proceedings. I understand that my Procurator-Advocate will represent me with full authority to the best of his/her ability. I also authorize the Tribunal to appoint and/or substitute such person to process this case as may be necessary.

Given in (City, State) \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the **Advocate**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the **Petitioner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advocate's Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advocate's Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Advocate's City, State, Zip

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Advocate's Area Code and Phone Number

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING IN THE PETITION PAGE

The following page is a legal document by which you formally request a declaration of nullity of your marriage from the Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama.

You do not need to write the full addresses for you and the Respondent on the Petition page, only the city and state.

Only write the full name of each of your witnesses, you do not need to provide their addresses on the Petition page.

It is important that you complete the Petition only after you have met with your Advocate or Pastor and identified the grounds you intend to propose. Your Advocate or Pastor will tell you how to write the names of the grounds, always indicating if each ground pertains to the Petitioner, the Respondent, or both.

Please note, **the Tribunal will send a copy of this page to the Respondent, as required by Church law.**

The bottom part of the Petition page is only for the Tribunal. Please, leave it blank.

## PETITION FOR A DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

In accordance with canons 1501-1504 of the Code of Canon Law and art. 116 of *Dignitas Connubii*,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Petitioner herein, with domicile in (City, State) \_\_\_\_\_,

hereby request that the Tribunal of the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama declares invalid my marriage with

\_\_\_\_\_, Respondent herein, with domicile in (City, State) \_\_\_\_\_.

The marriage took place at (City, State) \_\_\_\_\_ on (date) \_\_\_\_\_.

I contend that this marriage was invalid on the grounds of (discuss this with your Advocate):

My reason for questioning the validity of my marriage is based on the following: **(In your own words, give the major reasons for the breakdown of the marriage. Discuss this with your Advocate; DO NOT LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK.)**

I name the following witnesses who are knowledgeable about the above grounds and who are willing to offer testimony:

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Signed at (City, State) \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Advocate