REQUIREMENTS FOR A FORMAL PETITION

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

PLEASE NOTE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A FORMAL PETITION

There are several components to the petition. Please download and utilize all the components. Make sure all the documents are part of your petition package. Any missing documents will delay the petition. If you have questions, please call (361) 882-6191 for the Tribunal Office.

1. The **Document Checklist** is a valuable tool in making sure you have the appropriate documents to support the petition.
2. **Formal Case Tips** includes a required document:
    a. Guidelines for Filling Out and Submitting Petition for Declaration of Nullity of Marriage
    b. Statement of Release from Confidentiality, *if required*
    c. Pastor's Letter (also for use by Advocates), *required*
    d. When the Respondent's Address is Unknown
3. **Formal Case Mandate** is required and includes
    a. Initial petition and fee statement, *required*
    b. Mandate and Wavier of the Petitioner, *required*
    c. Statement of Tribunal Policy with affidavit, *required*
4. **Formal Case Petition** contains the questionnaire portion of the petition, *required*

***** Please note that the case cannot begin until the divorce is final. We recommend that the Petitioner does not set a wedding date.***

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST FOR FORMAL PETITION

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

Document Checklist for Petitioner Name – Respondent Name

DOCUMENT	YES	NO	STATUS/NOTES
Civil Marriage License	☐	☐	
Civil Divorce Decree	☐	☐	
Church Marriage Certificate	☐	☐	
Petitioner Baptismal Certificate	☐	☐	
Respondent Baptismal Certificate	☐	☐	
Other	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	
Check: Number and Amount	☐	☐	

* Copies of original documents witnessed by advocate.

** Official duplicate

_____
Advocate Signature

Parish Seal Above

Name of Parish_____

Parish Address_____

Date_____

GUIDELINES FOR FILLING OUT AND SUBMITTING PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

1. Before you answer any of the questions, please read the entire questionnaire.

2. Study each question carefully and think about how you will answer it. It is important that you answer each question as ***truthfully and fully*** as possible.

3. Please provide as much detail as possible. There is also space for any additional information that you may wish to provide, or you may use as many additional pages as necessary. Specific and detailed answers are most helpful to the judge in reaching a decision.

4. If you do not understand a question, or are unable to fill out the questionnaire, please contact your Pastor or Advocate. If you live outside the Diocese of Corpus Christi, you may contact the Tribunal of your Diocese. Various electronic versions of the petition are available on the diocesan website, at:
   http://www.diocesecc.org/tribunalforms

5. The questionnaire should be either ***typewritten*** or completed ***legibly*** in ***black*** ink.

6. If a question does not apply to you, please write "N/A".

7. If you need more space to answer a particular question, you may use the back of the page, or a separate sheet of paper.

8. The Petitioner is the person seeking the annulment. The Respondent is your former spouse.

We realize that some of the questions may appear to be very similar to other questions that you have been asked. Please understand that each question is significant to a particular time, such as dating, the engagement, or the actual marriage.

CONCERNING THE WITNESSES:

A. As a general rule, witnesses should have knowledge of the marriage in question, especially the courtship, engagement, and wedding. When possible, they should have known at least one party ***before*** the wedding.

B. Talk with your prospective witnesses and be sure that they are willing to complete a questionnaire.

C. The witnesses should answer each question ***fully.***

D. If witnesses are unable to read or write or do not speak English, inform your Pastor or other Advocate, and other arrangements will be made to take their statements.

E. The expert testimony of physicians, other health-care professionals, and counselors may be of great importance. A release form is included to allow them to testify.

9. The following documents ***must*** accompany your Petition for a Declaration of Nullity. Cases ***cannot*** be accepted if a necessary item is missing. If you want the documents to be returned, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

   A. A civil marriage license (Original or Certified.)

   B. A marriage certificate issued by the Catholic Church, if applicable

   C. A ***certified*** copy of the divorce decree signed by the Judge

   D. A ***recent*** copy of the baptismal certificate of Catholic parties, with notations. The baptismal certificate can be obtained from the Church in which the person was baptized. Your Advocate may need to assist you in obtaining this information.

   E. The ***required*** letter from the Pastor, Associate Pastor, Deacon, or other parish-based Advocate. The form is enclosed.

In order that you may be aware of the possible outcomes of this process, we offer, informally, the following information.
To be declared free to marry by the Catholic Church, there must be ***two*** affirmative decisions.

IF AN AFFIRMATIVE DECISION (a declaration that the marriage in question was invalid) IS GIVEN by the Corpus Christi Tribunal, there are two courses the case may take:

1. *If there is no appeal* (by the Respondent or the Defender of the Bond) against the decision of the Corpus Christi Tribunal:
   - The Appellate Court for the Dioceses of Texas, at San Antonio, will issue either a confirming decision or re-examine the case.

2. *If there is an appeal*
   - The case goes to the Court in San Antonio for a full appellate hearing or to the Tribunal of the Roman Rota in the Vatican. The Petitioner or the Respondent may offer additional evidence and arguments in the appeal.

IF A NEGATIVE DECISION IS GIVEN, that is, the Corpus Christi Tribunal does not declare the marriage invalid, the case will ***not*** be acted upon further, unless the Petitioner appeals to the Court of second instance.

If the second-instance decision is the ***same*** as that given by the Corpus Christi Tribunal, whether two affirmatives or two negatives, the case is complete and no further appeal is possible.

If the second-instance decision is ***different*** from the first, then a third-instance appeal is necessary to obtain the two concurring decisions required for the conclusion of the case. The third-instance appeal always goes to the Tribunal of the Roman Rota.

PLEASE RETAIN THESE THREE PAGES FOR YOUR RECORDS.

HARDSHIP CASES:

I. If complying with the Court's fee requirements would cause a real hardship, you may request:

   A. an extended installment plan (beyond five payments);

   B. forgiveness of part of the fee;

   C. forgiveness of the whole fee.

II. You must make your request in writing and explain in appropriate detail your financial circumstances and why the regular payment plan causes a real hardship.

III. Please have your request endorsed by your Pastor.

PLEASE RETAIN THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS.

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE
STATEMENT OF RELEASE FROM CONFIDENTIALITY

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

_____ (Complete name and mailing address of counselor.)
(Please type or print in black ink.)

_____

_____

_____

Dear _____:

I, _____, hereby release you from the obligation of your oath of professional secrecy, so that you might testify in connection with the ecclesiastical investigation of the _____ marriage case pending in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

I urge you to feel free to disclose any information you received from me that might be of assistance to the Tribunal. I have been assured that any information you divulge will be used solely for the purpose of the ecclesiastical investigation and will be kept in strict confidence.

_____ _____
Date Signature

_____
Witness

_____
Witness

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE
PASTOR'S LETTER

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

A letter from your Pastor or Advocate must accompany the Petition. The letter attests to the truthfulness of the Petitioner and explains any circumstances that may be important.

I. NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE FACTS OF THE PETITION

*This letter can be written by an Associate Pastor or a Parish Deacon, who advocates the case, or, where authorized by the Tribunal, by another Parish-based Advocate.

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

PASTOR'S LETTER (Page 2)

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
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II. **OBSERVATIONS ON THE CREDIBILITY OF THE PETITIONER**

III. **CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PETITION AND OTHER RELEVANT OBSERVATIONS**

_____ _____

Signature Parish Seal

_____

Date

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE
WHEN THE RESPONDENT'S ADDRESS IS UNKNOWN

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

If an address for the Respondent cannot be provided, please submit a letter detailing the following:

1. When was the last contact you had with the Respondent?

2. What was the Respondent's last known address? When was this address last known to be correct?

3. What attempts have been made to ascertain the Respondent's current address? What were the results of each attempt?*

4. Why is it thought that nothing further could be done to locate the Respondent?

The Petition for a Declaration of Nullity may be submitted in the Diocese or Archdiocese where the marriage took place, if the Respondent cannot be located. The Petition may also be submitted in the Diocese or Archdiocese in which most of the proofs of the case, such as the majority of the witnesses, are to be found. This applies to both Catholics and non-Catholics. Please consult your Advocate about this matter.

By Order of the Judicial Vicar

*As part of the effort to locate the Respondent, recourse is recommended to agencies that contract location services, particularly nationwide database searches. Some examples are http://www.locateme.com, http://ussearch.com, and http://www.intelius.com. All are available on the Internet.

If you are unable to locate your former spouse, and the Diocese of Corpus Christi Canonical and Tribunal Services Office must conduct a search, the fee is **$100.**

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

CASE TITLE: **PN:**
(Please type or print in black ink.)

I, the undersigned Petitioner, _____ respectfully request the Tribunal of the Diocese of Corpus Christi to begin a judicial investigation and to declare null, the marriage which I contracted with _____, on _____ at _____.

At this time, I agree to produce the necessary documents, proofs, and witnesses. I also understand that I am responsible for the following charges in court fees and charges:

$350 in fees and, $200 for each additional case submitted together, if deemed necessary in my case, an additional $100 to cover the cost of a psychological evaluation of the evidence. I understand that I may pay the entire $350 fee now or make $100 initial payment with five additional monthly payments of $50 totaling $250, with full balance due at the completion of the process. If complying with this fee schedule would cause real hardship, see separate instructions on a page titled Fees - Hardship Cases.
If you are unable to locate your former spouse and the Diocese of Corpus Christi Canonical and Tribunal Services Office must conduct a search, there is an additional fee of $100.
Please note that Declaration of Nullity decrees will not be released until any outstanding balance is paid.

_____ _____
Date ✍ Signature of Petitioner

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

One payment of	$350	_____	*OR:*
Initial payment	$100	_____	
Month One	$ 50	_____	
Month Two	$ 50	_____	
Month Three	$ 50	_____	
Month Four	$ 50	_____	
Month Five	$ 50	_____	
possible additional costs:			
Psychological evaluation	$100	_____	*(if necessary)*
Search for Respondent	$100	_____	*(if necessary)*

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE
MANDATE AND WAIVER OF THE PETITIONER

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

On this date, I freely and knowingly issue the following mandate and waiver.

By means of this document, I agree to whomever the Tribunals of first and second instance select to act as my Procurator-Advocate. To that person, I concede the faculty of doing and performing in my name all that may be necessary and useful.

By means of this document, I also empower my Procurator-Advocate to receive the citations, to be notified of the publications of the acts, to examine the acts, to be notified of the conclusion of the case and of the publication of the decision. To the extent of my ability to do so, I hereby absolve the Tribunals of first and second instance from any and all of these and other procedural steps, in connection with the expeditious, just and equitable disposition of the case.

By means of this document, I promise that I will institute no litigation before any civil jurisdiction or for any cause whatsoever, since this matter pertains to the governance of the Roman Catholic Church and is within her exclusive jurisdiction.

Given at _____, Texas, on this date. _____
Date signed

_____ _____
✍ Petitioner's Signature ✍ Signature of Pastor or other Advocate

_____
Name of Parish

PARISH SEAL

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE
STATEMENT OF TRIBUNAL POLICY

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

Fairness and justice require that the Tribunal have adequate information in order to make the right decision. In addition to the statements of the parties themselves and the testimonies of their witnesses, the Tribunal may request information from medical or psychological records (as well as school, military or personnel records) if this becomes necessary and only with your permission.

All information gathered in the course of this process is the exclusive property of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Corpus Christi - and is confidential and privileged. This information is **never** made available to any others **except** as required by the law of the Catholic Church - notably: for inspection by the Petitioner, the Respondent, and officers of the ecclesiastical Court. The information is **never** made available to witnesses or anyone acting on their behalf or in any civil proceedings.

AFFIDAVIT

I attest that I have read this statement of Tribunal policy and that I understand it and voluntarily agree to be bound by the policies explained in this statement.

I further swear that the statements I have made in the enclosed Petitioner's statement are the truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God. I am making this same oath also with regard to any further communications I may make to the Tribunal.

_____ _____

✍ Petitioner's Signature ✍ Signature of Pastor or other Advocate

_____

Date **PARISH SEAL**

A WEDDING DATE MAY NOT BE SET UNTIL THE CASE IS COMPLETE

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

(TYPE OR PRINT ANSWERS)

PETITIONER:

Name_____
(First) (Middle) (Maiden) (Present Last Name)

Address:_____

_____

Telephone: HOME: ( ) _____ WORK: ( ) _____

CELL: ( ) _____ E-mail:_____

1. Date of Birth:_____ Place of Birth:_____

2. What is your present religion?_____

3. Are you Baptized? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, in what religion?_____

   Where were you baptized?_____
   (Name of Church) (City) (State)
   When?_____

4. If you are NOT Catholic, do you intend to become one? Yes ☐ No ☐

5. How many times have you been married?_____ (Please provide information for each marriage on the following pages.)

RESPONDENT: (former spouse)

Name:_____
(First) (Middle Name) (Maiden Name) (Present Last Name)

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS *IS* REQUIRED: *(If unknown, see document titled WHEN THE RESPONDENT'S ADDRESS IS UNKNOWN,*

Address:_____

_____

Telephone: HOME: ( ) _____ WORK: ( ) _____

CELL: ( ) _____ E-mail:_____

6. Date of Birth:_____ Place of Birth:_____

7. Religion at ***time of marriage***?_____

8. Baptized? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, in what religion?_____

   Where?_____
   (Name of Church) (City) (State)

   When?_____
   (Complete baptismal information must be provided for Catholic Respondents.
   This information can be found at the Church of baptism or the Church of marriage.)

RESPONDENT'S PRIOR MARRIAGE If more space is needed, continue on the back of next page.

9. a. Was the Respondent previously married? Yes ☐ No ☐

   b. If yes, to whom? _____

   c. Where?_____

   d. When?_____

   e. Date of Divorce?_____ Where?_____

   e. Was this prior marriage annulled by the Catholic Church? Yes ☐ No ☐

   f. If ***yes***, you ***must*** provide the place of annulment and the date of the decision. (This is a requirement.)_____

   Please provide a copy of the marriage license and divorce decree. These may be obtained at the County Courthouse where the marriage and divorce occurred.

PETITIONER'S (YOUR) MARRIAGE TO THE RESPONDENT:

10. Date of your marriage to the Respondent:_____

11. Place of marriage:_____
(Church, J.P., etc.) (City) (State)

12. If you ***or*** your former spouse is Catholic and you were married in civil law (the marriage was not celebrated in the Catholic Church), was the marriage ***later*** validated or "blessed" in the Catholic Church? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please provide the following information:

    a. Date of Validation:_____

    b. Church where validated:_____
    (Church) (City) (State)

13. Approximate date of Separation:_____

14. Date of Civil Divorce:_____ Where:_____

15. Number of children born (or adopted) in this marriage:_____

PETITIONER'S (YOUR) OTHER MARRIAGES If more space is needed, continue on the back of next page.

If you have had ***more than one*** marriage, please discuss with your Pastor or Advocate what must be done. All prior and subsequent marriages ***must*** be addressed at this time. Provide information about each marriage below or on a separate page. Please begin with your first marriage.

1. (Other party's mailing address)

Name_____
(First) (Middle) (Maiden) (Present Last Name)

Address:_____

_____

Date of marriage:_____

Place of marriage:_____
(Church, J.P., etc.) (City) (State)

Has this marriage been declared invalid? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, provide details of the Declaration of Nullity:_____

If ***no***, provide information on how this marriage is being addressed at this time:

_____

2. (Other party's mailing address)

Name_____
(First) (Middle) (Maiden) (Present Last Name)

Address:_____

_____

Date of marriage:_____

Place of marriage:_____
(Church, J.P., etc.) (City) (State)

Has this marriage been declared invalid? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, provide details of the Declaration of Nullity:_____

If ***no***, provide information on how this marriage is being addressed at this time:

_____

****

3. (Other party's mailing address)

Name_____
(First) (Middle) (Maiden) (Present Last Name)

Address:_____

_____

Date of marriage:_____

Place of marriage:_____
(Church, J.P., etc.) (City) (State)

Has this marriage been declared invalid? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, provide details of the Declaration of Nullity:_____

If ***no***, provide information on how this marriage is being addressed at this time:

_____

PETITIONER'S PRESENT MARRIAGE:

1. Name_____
   (First) (Middle) (Maiden) (Present Last Name)
2. Address:_____

   _____
3. Date of marriage:_____
4. Place of marriage:_____
   (Church, J.P., etc.) (City) (State)
5. Was the other party previously married? Yes ☐ No ☐
6. If yes, what is the name of that spouse?_____

NOTE: If your present spouse was previously married, that marriage must be addressed at this time (including non-Catholics). If your present spouse is widowed or has received a Declaration of Nullity, please give the details below:

7. What is your present spouse's religion?_____
8. Has he or she been baptized? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, where?_____
9. How many children from this marriage?_____
10. In what religion are the children being raised?_____
11. Do you intend this to be a permanent marriage?_____

PETITIONER'S INTENDED SPOUSE

1. What is the name of your intended spouse?_____
2. Has your intended spouse ever been married before? Yes ☐ No ☐

NOTE: If your intended spouse was previously married, that marriage (or those marriages) must be addressed at this time (including non-Catholics). If your intended spouse is widowed or has received a Declaration of Nullity, please give the details below:

3. Are you married in civil law? Yes ☐ No ☐

I. PETITIONER'S FAMILY BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1. What is ***your*** father's name?_____

   His religion:_____Living ☐ Deceased ☐

   What is ***your*** mother's first name and maiden last name?_____

   Her religion:_____Living ☐ Deceased ☐

2. How would you describe your parents' marital relationship?

   Warm and loving ☐ Emotionally distant ☐ Troubled ☐

   Please describe your parents' marital relationship *in detail:*_____

4. Please comment on such things as happiness in the family, who was the dominant parent (if either), special problems in the home such as drinking, use of illegal drugs, infidelity, divorce, physical, emotional, or verbal abuse, excessive strictness or permissiveness, serious illness, death of a significant person, any mental or emotional illness, or any other unusual or significant things about the family.

5. How many brothers _____ and sisters _____ do you have?

   Have any of your brothers or sisters been divorced? Yes ☐ No ☐

   If yes, how many of them?_____ If any have divorced more than once, how many of them and how many times?_____

6. How would you describe your relationship with your brothers and sisters while you were growing up? Warm and loving ☐ Emotionally distant ☐ Troubled ☐

   Please comment:_____

7. Did you experience any difficulties growing up that you feel influenced your future marriage?

   Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

8. Prior to marriage, I dated: Frequently ☐ Seldom ☐ Rarely ☐ Never ☐

   Please comment on ***your*** dating experience ***prior*** to dating the Respondent:

9. Was your relationship with the Respondent the first serious relationship for ***you***?

   Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain:_____

10. Were you ever engaged to anyone other than the Respondent? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If yes, why did this engagement end?_____

11. Please describe ***your*** educational background:_____

12. ***Before*** the actual wedding, what did ***you*** think or feel about the following:

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 remarried ***if*** the marriage did not work out:_____

f. sexual fidelity:_____

Did you discuss these matters with the Respondent before the wedding?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, why not?_____

II. RESPONDENT'S FAMILY BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1. What is the Respondent's father's name?_____

His religion:_____Living ☐ Deceased ☐

What is his or her mother's first name and maiden last name?_____

Her religion:_____Living ☐ Deceased ☐

2. How would you describe the Respondent's parents' marital relationship?

   Warm and loving ☐ Emotionally distant ☐ Troubled ☐

   Please describe the Respondent's parents' marital relationship *in detail:*_____

3. Please comment on such things as happiness in the family, who was the dominant parent (if either), special problems in the home such as drinking, use of illegal drugs, infidelity, divorce, physical, emotional, or verbal abuse excessive strictness or permissiveness, serious illness, death of a significant person, any mental or emotional illness, or any other unusual or significant things about the family.

4. How many brothers _____ and sisters _____ does the Respondent have?

   Have any of his or her brothers or sisters been divorced? Yes ☐ No ☐

   If yes, how many of them?_____ If any have divorced more than once, how many of them and how many times?_____

5. How would you describe the Respondent's relationship with his or her brothers and sisters while growing up?Warm and loving ☐ Emotionally distant ☐ Troubled ☐

   Please comment:_____

6. Did the Respondent experience any difficulties growing up that might have influenced any future marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

7. Prior to marriage, the Respondent dated: Frequently ☐ Seldom ☐ Rarely ☐ Never ☐

   Please comment on ***the Respondent's*** dating experience ***prior*** to dating you:

8. Was your relationship with the Respondent the first serious relationship for ***him or her***?

   Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain:_____

9. Was the Respondent ever engaged to anyone other than you? Yes ☐ No ☐

   If yes, why did this engagement end?_____

10. Please describe ***the Respondent's*** educational background:_____

11. If you do not know the answers to any of questions 1 through 10 of Part II, or cannot answer them, please explain why, ***in detail***: _____

12. ***Before*** the actual wedding, what did the ***Respondent*** tell you or what do you think the ***Respondent*** thought or felt about the following:

    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 remarried ***if*** the marriage did not work out:_____

    f. sexual fidelity:_____

III. CONCERNING DATING AND ENGAGEMENT

1. How did you meet the Respondent and under what circumstances?_____

2. What were your ages when you first began to date each other?

   You_____ Respondent_____

3. How often did you date and what kind of dates were these?_____

4. Please describe how you and the Respondent got along while dating. Were there frequent arguments, breakups, etc.?_____

5. Were there any separations due to living in different areas or breakups due to arguments? If yes, please explain:_____

6. What did ***your*** parents and friends think about the ***relationship***? Did anyone object? If so, why? Please explain:_____

7. What did the ***Respondent's*** parents and friends think about the ***relationship***? Did anyone object? If so, why? Please explain:_____

8. Please explain anything about the Respondent during the dating period that struck you as "unusual," "odd," or "strange."_____

9. Were there any problems during the dating or engagement period that grew worse and might have indicated there would be future problems in the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

10. If there were difficulties during the courtship, why did you proceed with the wedding?

11. Who proposed marriage?_____Why?_____

12. What attracted you to the Respondent as a possible marriage partner?_____

13. How long did you date until you got engaged?_____

14. How long was it between the time you decided to get married and the actual marriage?

    _____

15. Did you live together before the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, how long?_____

    If ***yes***, did you think that your relationship with the Respondent would change after the wedding? Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:_____

    If you lived together before the marriage, did ***your*** family and friends know?

    Yes ☐ No ☐ If ***yes***, what did they think or say about the situation?_____

If ***no***, why did they not know?_____

If you lived together before the marriage, did ***the Respondent's*** family and friends know? Yes ☐ No ☐ If ***yes***, what did they think or say about the situation?_____

If ***no***, why did they not know?_____

16. What did ***your*** parents and friends think about your ***engagement***?_____

17. What did the ***Respondent's*** parents and friends think about the ***engagement***?_____

18. Were ***you*** reluctant or feeling pressured to marry? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If yes, please explain:_____

_____

19. Was the ***Respondent*** reluctant or feeling pressured to marry? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If yes, please explain:_____

20. Did you and the Respondent work together in making the wedding plans?

    Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain:_____

21. Were your respective families involved in making the wedding plans? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If no, please explain:_____

22. Did you and the Respondent receive any premarital preparation? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If yes, describe briefly and comment on its effectiveness in preparing each of you for marriage:-

    If no, why not?_____

23. What did the minister (or judge) who performed the wedding think about the marriage?

    _____

24. Describe ***your*** personality ***before*** you were married?_____

25. Describe the ***Respondent's*** personality ***before*** you were married?_____

IV. CONCERNING THE WEDDING AND HONEYMOON

1. What was ***your*** frame of mind on the day of the wedding, ***especially*** at the time of the wedding ceremony?_____

   What was the ***Respondent's*** frame of mind?_____

2. What was ***your*** age on the wedding day?_____the ***Respondent's*** age?_____
3. Were there any unusual events on the wedding day? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

4. Did anyone advise you or the Respondent against marrying? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

5. Did either you or the Respondent enter this marriage as an escape or rebellion against a situation or a person? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, who and why?_____

6. Was there a pregnancy before the wedding? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, had the wedding date been set before the pregnancy was discovered? Yes ☐ No ☐

7. When you married, do you think both you and the Respondent had an adequate understanding of what marriage involved? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, who and why?____

8. At the time of the wedding, did both you and the Respondent think or feel that you could commit yourselves to one person for the rest of your lives? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain:_____

9. Were either of you seeing or dating another person while you were preparing for marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, who and why?_____

10. Did both of you understand what faithfulness to one another in marriage meant?

    Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain:_____

11. When you married, did you both intend the marriage to last for the rest of your lives?
    Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain:_____

12. Did either of you enter this marriage with the idea that if things did not work out, divorce was an option? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

13. Before the marriage, did you discuss the idea of having children? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If no, why not?_____

    If you did discuss the idea of having children, were you both willing to have children in ***this*** marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If no, please explain:_____

14. Was the honeymoon a pleasant experience? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain:___

15. If this wedding was celebrated outside the Catholic Church and was validated (blessed) in the Catholic Church, what was (were) the reason(s) for this ***second*** ceremony?

Did you consider yourself ***already married*** because of the prior ceremony?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:_____

Did the Respondent consider himself or herself ***already married*** because of the prior ceremony? Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:_____

V. CONCERNING THE MARRIAGE

1. How long (years, months, weeks) did you ***actually live together*** as husband and wife?

_____

2. Did you adjust well with your new life with the Respondent? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please explain:_____

3. Were there any problems that you noticed before the wedding that caused trouble in the marriage itself?_____

4. Did ***your*** personality change ***AFTER*** the wedding? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

5. Did the ***Respondent's*** personality change ***AFTER*** the wedding? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

6. Do you think ***you*** were sufficiently mature and emotionally stable to enter a marriage?
   Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:_____

7. Do you think the ***Respondent*** was sufficiently mature and emotionally stable to enter a marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:_____

8. How soon (years, months, weeks) after the wedding did problems ***first*** begin?_____
   Please explain what these problems were:_____

9. How were problems and conflicts handled by ***you***?

10. How were problems and conflicts handled by the ***Respondent***?

11. What ***influence*** did ***your family and friends*** have on the marriage?

12. What ***influence*** did the ***Respondent's family and friends*** have on the marriage?

13. Did your sexual relationship cause any difficulties within the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If yes, please explain:_____

14. Did either of you make any sexual demands that caused any difficulty due to being considered abnormal or undesirable? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

15. Were ***you*** involved with anyone else during the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If yes, what was the nature of the relationship?_____

    When did it begin?_____

    How long did it last?_____

16. Was the ***Respondent*** involved with anyone else during the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐

    If yes, what was the nature of the relationship?_____

    When did it begin?_____

    How long did it last?_____

17. Did you or the Respondent plan to postpone having children? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, who, for how long, and why?_____

18. If there was an agreement to postpone having children, was it made by ***both you and the Respondent***? Yes ☐ No ☐

19. Was birth control used during this marriage? Always ☐ Usually ☐ Rarely or Never ☐

    If birth control was used, was an agreement made by both? Yes ☐ No ☐

    Or, because one person was insistent? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

20. Did you use multiple forms of birth control? Yes ☐ No ☐

21. Would one of you refuse to have sexual relations if birth control was not used?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, who and why?_____

22. Was there a decision never to have children? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:__

If yes, did it become a source of difficulty during the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:_____

23. Did either of you undergo a surgical operation to prevent the conception of a child?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, who, when, and what type of surgery?_____

24. Was an abortion ever obtained in this marriage to prevent the birth of a child?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, was it a mutual decision? Yes ☐ No ☐

If not a mutual decision, who insisted on it? You ☐ Respondent ☐ Please explain:

25. Please comment on the following as they may have affected your marriage:

a. A breakdown in communication:

b. The loss of shared interests or goals:

c. Women's equality issues:

d. In-laws:

e. Religion:

Did you practice religion? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you did practice your religion, was it a positive force in your marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:_____

If you did not practice your religion, why not?_____

f. Work/Career:

g. Money/Finances:

26. Did ***you*** think or feel that you and the Respondent were growing together in love for one another? Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:_____

How open did you feel about revealing your deepest thoughts and feelings?_____

27. Did the ***Respondent*** think or feel that you and the Respondent were growing together in love for one another? Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:_____

How open did he or she feel about revealing his or her deepest thoughts and feelings?_____

28. Did you and the Respondent have or adopt any children? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please answer questions 29 through 35.

29. How long after the wedding was there a pregnancy?_____

30. What was ***your*** reaction to the discovery of the pregnancy?_____

31. What was the ***Respondent's*** reaction to the discovery of the pregnancy?_____

_____

32. How many children were born or adopted during this marriage?_____

What are their names and dates of birth?_____

If any of the children are still minors, are all court-ordered obligations regarding child support, custody, and visitation being observed? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain:

_____

33. How was the responsibility of children handled by

You?_____

Respondent?_____

34. Was there any physical, emotional, or verbal abuse of the children? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, by whom? How frequent was it? How severe? Please give examples:_____

35. If your marriage was troubled, why did you decide to have children?_____

36. Was there any physical, emotional, or verbal abuse between you and the Respondent?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, by whom? How frequent was it? How severe? Please give examples:_____

37. Was there any abuse of alcohol or drugs during the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, by whom? How often? Was it alcohol or drugs? Were there any arrests, accidents, loss of work, change in personality, etc., associated with it?_____

VI. CONCERNING THE END OF THE MARRIAGE

1. How many temporary separations were there during the marriage?_____

   How long did each last? When did they occur? What caused them?_____

2. Who mentioned divorce for the first time? You ☐ Respondent ☐

   When? Why?_____

3. What caused the ***final*** separation?_____

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

   Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:_____

5. What was ***your*** attitude toward seeking counseling to help solve the marital problems?

6. What was the ***Respondent's*** attitude toward seeking counseling?_____

7. Were either of you ever hospitalized or treated for nervousness, depression, emotional or psychological problems ***before*** the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, who, and what was the nature of the illness?

8. Were either of you ever hospitalized or treated for nervousness, depression, emotional or psychological problems ***after*** the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, who, and what was the nature of the illness?

9. Can you provide any documentation as proof? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, what will it be?

_____

Will it be attached to this questionnaire? Yes ☐ No ☐

10. Did either you or the Respondent exhibit any strange or odd behavior during the marriage? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, who? Please give an example:_____

11. Did either you or the Respondent seek any counseling from psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, or family doctors? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, who? How many times?_____

If yes, ***please sign a release for professional information for this Tribunal.*** The release form is included in this packet: Please make copies if more than one is needed.

If the ***Respondent*** sought counseling, do you think that he or she would be willing to sign a release? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide the ***complete name and mailing address for the counselor:***

_____

12. On what date did you ***last*** live together?_____

13. Who left the marriage? You ☐ Respondent ☐

14. What major things could have been done or avoided by ***you*** that would have helped the relationship?_____

15. What major things could have been done or avoided by the ***Respondent*** that would have helped the relationship?_____

16. How much satisfaction was there for ***you*** in relation to ***your*** expectations about marriage?_____

17. How much satisfaction was there for the ***Respondent*** in relation to ***his or her*** expectations about marriage?_____

VII. CONCERNING DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

1. Who filed for divorce? You ☐ Respondent ☐ Why?_____

2. On what grounds?_____

3. Who has or had custody of the children from this marriage? You ☐ Respondent ☐

4. Are any provisions of the civil courts regarding child support being observed?

   Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, please explain:_____

5. Have ***you*** "remarried" in civil law? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, how many times?_____

6. Has the ***Respondent*** "remarried" in civil law? Yes [ ] No [ ] If yes, how many times?_____

7. Why are you seeking a Declaration of Nullity at this time? What effects do you think it will have?_____

Please use this page and/or additional pages to add any further comments you have about your marriage.

WITNESSES, **whom I have contacted and who are willing** to answer a questionnaire. The witnesses will be asked about facts concerning you, the Respondent, and your relationship with the Respondent both before and after the wedding. It is important that they provide as much detailed information as possible. Your witnesses should be people who knew you at the time of your marriage. Please only list the names of witnesses who are willing to respond to the questionnaire. Please provide complete addresses.

Children of the marriage should not be submitted as witnesses.

When submitting the names of a couple, please note that a husband and wife count as two witnesses. A questionnaire will be sent to each one separately.

If it is not possible to submit the names of four witnesses, please give a written explanation as to why. Your case cannot be decided until the Tribunal has received completed questionnaires from at least two witnesses.

Submit the names and addresses of ***four*** people only.

1. Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐_____

   Street or P.O. Box_____

   City, State, Zip_____

   Relationship to you_____

2. Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐_____

   Street or P.O. Box_____

   City, State, Zip_____

   Relationship to you_____

3. Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐_____

   Street or P.O. Box_____

   City, State, Zip_____

   Relationship to you_____

4. Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐_____

   Street or P.O. Box_____

   City, State, Zip_____

   Relationship to you_____

Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Corpus Christi
620 Lipan Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
P.O. Box 2620, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

TOOLS/WEBSITES TO ASSIST YOU IN FINDING THE RESPONDENT (Your Former Spouse)

DEATH RECORDS

Death Records
Site: http://www.ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com fee based research

You can also write the Department of Vital Records in the State where your former spouse was last known to reside to see if there is a possible death certificate.
Site: http://www.vitalrec.com can be used as a tool to find the location and telephone of the State's Vital Statistics office. It is much cheaper if you then contact the State's Vital Statistics office yourself rather than use the paid service that is website charges.

TELEPHONE BOOK/WHITE PAGES

Try the telephone book for all the known places your former spouse has lived. If it is in another city o r state, try to contact someone in that particular city/state who would be willing to look up or copy the listings for you. In this way, the person can contact the listings in search of the former spouse or a family member.

Try directory assistance. When checking through directory assistance, always ask the operator upfront for an address and then the telephone number of the person you are trying to find. If checking in a particular city shows no result, ask the operator to check the surrounding area or the entire area code. List the directory assistance cities contacted and the result. Please state the result of any attempts by you to make contact by telephone. You may also check US Search and many URLs appear.

The Internet has numerous white pages sites. They are not all alike. For a good search, try 8-10 different sites with different combinations of a person's name. If a person is married, the woman might have the telephone listed in her name. Six popular Internet white pages for easy access. http://www.theultimates.com/white

If you only have a telephone number for a person, try a reverse look-up site, which will give you a possible address. If you have a last known address, you can use this site to see who now lives at the address and possibly that person can give you a lead as to where to find your former spouse.

Check http://www.infospace.com or http://www.anywho.com or http://zabasearch.com or http://peoplefinder.com or http://whitepages.com

PROPERTY RECORDS

If a person owns property, it is possible to find them through the appraisal records of the county in which the property is owned or the person lives. The following are three Internet sites that you can use to find a property owner in Texas.

http://www.txcountydata.com or http://www.nctcog.dst.tx.us/almanac/appr.asp or http://www.traviscad.org/

It is also possible to find a property owner in other states. In order to determine if this is possible, you would have to search for that information through the State's web site by inserting the initials of any U.S. State to obtain the home page. From there check for sites generally called property records, State Assessor, or appraisal records. See http://www.state. _____.us

ALUMNI LISTS

Contact the high school and/or college that your former spouse attended. Some keep a list or can tell you how to get in touch with a former student. Some schools have websites. A search engine such as http://www.infoseek.com can assist you. At http://www.lycos.com you can click on "Who Where?" for white pages to locate college alumni lists.

TRIBUNAL ASSISTANCE

The Tribunal can assist a person in finding someone. Our main source of information comes from the State Department of Motor Vehicles, public documents, and a locating service.

Any information or address that is obtained from these sources is protected by the federal Driver's Privacy Act (DPPA) and other federal protective and stalking laws. The information or address that is obtained can only be used for the service of process. We are required by law to hold this information confidential and it cannot be released to anyone.

The Tribunal will assess an additional research fee on an individual basis depending on the amount of research the Tribunal has to do. See "PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE" form. The $100 fee needs to be paid in advance if you opt for the Tribunal to do the research.

1. Current name of former spouse.
2. Date of birth of former spouse.
3. Social security number of former spouse.
4. Drivers license number, including State, of former spouse. (If not known, give all States where the former spouse may have had a driver's license.)

This information can possibly be found on the marriage application, the marriage license, the original petition for divorce, the final divorce decree, or federal income tax return forms.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

It is extremely helpful to the Tribunal if you provide the following documents.

MARRIAGE APPLICATION (If available)

Check with the county in which the civil marriage license was obtained for a coy of the marriage application. If this document is available, it may contain helpful information such as a person's surname, date and place of birth, drivers license number, social security number, marital status of the parties, previous marriage and divorce information, parent's names and addresses, etc. It is less expensive to ask for a non-certified copy.

ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE

Contact the District Clerk's Office for a copy of the original petition for divorce. This document sometimes contains useful information such as addresses, social security, drivers license numbers, etc. It is less expensive to ask for a non-certified copy and generally the first and last page of this document is sufficient.

FINDING CIVIL DOCUMENTS

A marriage record can generally be found in the County Clerk's Office of the county and state in which the license was obtained. A divorce decree can generally be found in the District Clerk's Office of the county and state in which the divorce was obtained. Some counties will check their records free while other charge a search fee.

If you know what county and state documents are located, you can go to http://www.vitalrec.com to find the address and telephone of the office that you need to contact to obtain that certain document. It is much cheaper if you then contact the county office yourself rather than using the paid service that his site charges.

If the marriage and divorce took place in Texas, you can check the rootsweb.com website for the date and location (county).
For marriage: http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/marriage/search.ogi or http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/marriagedivorce/mindex.shtm

For divorce: http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/divorce/search.ogi **or** http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/marriagedivorce/mindex.shtm

FINDING A RESPONDENT (Your Former Spouse)

It is a strict requirement of Church Law (Canon Law) that the Respondent (your former spouse) be notified that this process is occurring. Failure to contact your former spouse can result in the entire process being declared invalid. Using today's technology, namely the Internet, it is not difficult to find someone. If all means to locate your former spouse have been truly exhausted, the Tribunal can attempt to contact your former spouse through a family member, such as a parent or sibling. However, contacting your former spouse through a relative or through a c/o (care of) address could delay the process since extra special attention must be given to ensure that your former spouse has indeed received the notice. After exhausting the means provided to you, if you need TRIBUNAL ASSISTANCE, please refer to the following. It is not recommended that you use a private detective or a paid locating service.

EACH QUESTION MUST BE ANSWERED COMPLETELY. USE THE INTERNET TOOLS TO ASSIST YOU.

1. Is there anything about the behavior or lifestyle of your former spouse that would make you think that your former spouse with whom you are still in contact might be deceased? Please describe any and all efforts of your search.

2. Are there any mutual friends, former in-laws; or other relatives of your former spouse with whom you are in contact? If yes, contact each one of them to see if they know where your former spouse is. Please list that you contacted, giving this person's name, address, telephone and the relationship to your former spouse, and their response.

3. List the places that your former spouse has lived in chronological order, starting with the place of birth to the last known address of the former spouse. Be as detailed as you can, listing street addresses, city, state, etc.

4. Please provide the full names of both parents of your former spouse, including the mother's maiden and current name. Then list the places that the parents of your former spouse have lived in chronological order, starting with their place of birth to their last known address. Be as detailed as you can, listing street addresses, city, state, etc. Please describe any and all efforts you made to contact them.

5. List the names of all siblings and their spouse's full names, along with the last known address of each sibling and their spouse. Give the approximate ages or approximate date of birth of the siblings. Please describe any and all efforts you made to contact any of them.

6. If there were children born to the marriage and those children are grown, please give their current name, along with the full name of their spouse, including their last known address and telephone number. Please describe any and all efforts you made to contact any of them.

7. List the names of schools attended by your former spouse, especially high school and college. Try contacting the schools for your former spouse's address and explain your results.

8. Was your former spouse ever in the Military Service? If so, what branch of the Military and what years were they in the Military?

9. List your former spouse's last known places of employment? Please try contacting the places of employment for any possible leads to the location of your former spouse and explain your results.

10. Was your former spouse married before marrying you? Is it possible to contact this former spouse or any children born of this marriage to see if they know how to find your former spouse? If this is possible, please do so and explain who you contacted and your results.

11. Has your former spouse remarried after your divorce from him/her? If so, please give the full names of any other spouses that they might have had and approximately when and where these marriages might have taken place.

12. What other steps have you taken to find your former spouse?