



Diocese of Brownsville

Catholic Pastoral Center

Judicial Department
Diocesan Tribunal

LOCATING THE RESPONDENT

In accord with Canon 1659, the Tribunal must notify the Respondent (your former spouse) through certified and regular mail that the Petitioner has petitioned for an Annulment. **FAILURE TO CONTACT THE RESPONDENT WILL RESULT IN THE CASE NOT BEING ACCEPTED.** Below you will find resources available for locating the Respondent.

DEATH RECORD WEBSITES

It is important to search Death Record Websites. If the Respondent is deceased, there is no need to file for an annulment. Simply obtain a copy of the Death Certificate and present it to your pastor.

❖ Department of Vital Records

- Contact 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.
- Website: <http://www.vitalrec.com>

❖ Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

- Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com>

❖ Texas Death Records

- Website: <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/death/search.cgi>

❖ Ancestry.com

- Website: <http://www.ancestry.com>

OTHER WEBSITES

Try several different websites with different combinations of a person's name.

- <https://www.mylife.com>
- <http://www.ussearch.com>
- <https://www.beenverified.com>
- <https://www.truthfinder.com>
- <https://checkpeople.com/>

*****Please provide copies of all website searches or records found displaying demographic information that includes names, addresses, city, state, etc. These records must show date search was conducted. A WEBSITE LISTING WITHOUT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

SOCIAL MEDIA

You may attempt to locate the Respondent through any means of social media below:

- Facebook

SOCIAL MEDIA (cont'd)

- Instagram
- Twitter
- LinkedIn

OTHER SEARCH METHODS

The Petitioner may attempt any of the search methods below:

- **Contact Respondent's Family/Relatives**
 - Former In-Laws, Siblings, Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents
 - List whom you contacted and their responses. Please provide date contacted, the person's name, address, telephone number and their relationship to the Respondent. Describe all efforts made to contact any of them.
- **Contact Mutual Friends**
 - List whom you contacted and their responses. Please provide date contacted, the person's name, address, and telephone number.
- **Respondent's Last Known Address**
 - List the places that the Respondent has lived in chronological order. Provide as much details as you can, listing street addresses, city, state, etc.
- **Respondent's Employment**
 - List the Respondent's last known place of employment.
 - List the places the Respondent has worked in chronological order. Provide as much details as possible. Be sure to include names, addresses, city, state, etc.
- **Military Bases**
 - If Respondent was in the military, contact military base where the Respondent was last stationed. Information needed: military branch, years of service?
- **Schools**
 - List the names of schools attended by the Respondent (ex. high school and college).
- **Telephone Book Listings**
 - For all the known places your former spouse has lived.
- **Directory Assistance**
 - Request address and telephone number of the person you are trying to find.
 - Check surrounding areas or the entire area code.

If using other search methods other than social media or websites, please describe in writing all efforts made to contact the Respondent.

NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS

If all means to locate the Respondent have been exhausted, newspaper publications is the last resort. Canon 1509, indicates the notification of citations issued by the Tribunal must be made through public postal services or by other secure methods of notification. The Petitioner will be required to publish a small advertisement in two of the local newspapers in the city of the Respondent's last known address. The advertisement must be published for one month in each newspaper. After being published for one month, the Petitioner must submit two copies of the newspaper advertisements to the Tribunal.