

Office Use Only Date Rec'd:

Case Name:

Case #:

Dispensation/sanation in archives? ☐ Yes ☐ No



REQUEST FOR A *NIHIL OBSTAT* FOR A LACK OF CANONICAL FORM

DIOCESE OF MADISON-TRIBUNAL · 702 S. High Point Road, Suite 225 · Madison, WI 53719-4926 · 608-821-3060 · tribunal@madisondiocese.org

STOP! DO NOT USE THIS FORM UNLESS AT LEAST ONE PARTY HAD BEEN BAPTIZED OR RECEIVED INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PRIOR TO THE TIME OF THE WEDDING.

*This form must be filled out **completely** (please print or type), including information regarding the Respondent, with the assistance of a priest or deacon.*

PETITIONER (YOU)	RESPONDENT (OTHER PARTY)
Current name:	Current name:
Maiden name (if applicable):	Maiden name (if applicable):
Present address:	Present address:
City: State: Zip:	City: State: Zip:
Telephone:	Telephone:
E-mail:	E-mail:
Date of birth: City:	Date of birth: City:
Baptized? Yes No If so, date:	Baptized? Yes No If so, date:
Church of baptism:	Church of baptism:
City: State: Zip:	City: State: Zip:
Age at time of wedding:	Age at time of wedding:
Religion at time of wedding:	Religion at time of wedding:
Current religion:	Current religion:

CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP

Date when courtship began:	Length of courtship prior to engagement:
Date of engagement:	Length of engagement prior to marriage:
Date of wedding:	Length of common life prior to divorce:
Church or place of marriage:	
Address of church or place of marriage:	
City: State: Zip:	
Minister or officiant of marriage:	Denomination (if applicable):
Date of separation:	Date of divorce: County, state of divorce:

CHILDREN BORN OF THIS MARRIAGE

Name: Date of birth:

Name: Date of birth:

Name: Date of birth:

Name: Date of birth:

Name: Date of birth:

Attach additional sheets as needed.

QUESTIONS REGARDING CANONICAL FORM

1. Was a dispensation from canonical form granted for the celebration of this marriage? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Were there any extraordinary circumstances (e.g., danger of death, unavailability of minister, etc.) which prevented the exchange of consent according to canonical form, i.e. in the presence of a priest/deacon and two witnesses? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, please give details concerning the circumstances:

.....

.....

3. Was this marriage ever validated by the exchange of consent in the presence of a priest/deacon and two witnesses? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Was a *sanatio in radice* obtained for this marriage? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. (For weddings that took place between November 27, 1983, and April 9, 2010)

Did the Catholic party ever leave the Catholic Church by a formal act (e.g., join another church or ecclesial community, renounce their Catholic affiliation, etc.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, please give details concerning this act:

.....

.....

PETITIONER'S CURRENT INTENTIONS

☐ I have no plans to enter marriage

OR

☐ I intend to marry (name)

Religion of intended spouse:

Has he/she ever been married? Yes* No

**If yes, please note that this other person is not free to marry in the Catholic Church unless his/her previous spouse has died or the marriage is declared invalid consequent to a separate petition for a declaration of nullity or the failure to observe canonical form.*

INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER MARRIAGES

Was this the first marriage for both of you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please indicate below any other marriages contracted by either party, whether before or after the marriage in question. If more space is needed, please attach a separate sheet.

☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT**

Spouse:

Check all that apply below:

Religion of spouse:

☐ Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:

Date of marriage: Location:

☐ Death of spouse; (date):

Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church? Y N

☐ Civil divorce, granted on (date):

☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT**

Spouse:

Check all that apply below:

Religion of spouse:

☐ Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:

Date of marriage: Location:

☐ Death of spouse; (date):

Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church? Y N

☐ Civil divorce, granted on (date):

☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT**

Spouse:

Check all that apply below:

Religion of spouse:

☐ Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:

Date of marriage: Location:

☐ Death of spouse; (date):

Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church? Y N

☐ Civil divorce, granted on (date):

☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT**

Spouse:

Check all that apply below:

Religion of spouse:

☐ Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:

Date of marriage: Location:

☐ Death of spouse; (date):

Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church? Y N

☐ Civil divorce, granted on (date):

For each marriage, please enclose, if applicable, a certified civil marriage license, death certificate, divorce decree, and Catholic declaration of nullity.

Necessary Documents:

1. **For Catholic parties: an original baptismal certificate issued within the last 6 months, with sacramental notations**
 - this document demonstrates that at least one of the parties to the marriage was a Catholic and was therefore required to marry in the Catholic Church
 - please contact your parish of baptism in order to obtain this document, asking the parish secretary to ensure that the notations section—typically on the back side of the document—is completed in full, or to indicate accordingly if there are no notations in the register; notations are necessary in order to demonstrate that no dispensation was received, and that the marriage was never validated/sanated
 - NOT ACCEPTED: the certificate that you were given on the day of your baptism; photocopies
2. **A certified civil marriage certificate or equivalent government-issued document**
 - this document demonstrates that the marriage was in fact celebrated outside the Catholic Church
3. **A complete civil divorce decree (if applicable)**
 - this document is needed to show that a prospective marriage could be celebrated without violating civil laws against bigamy; it also frequently contains crucial information about even earlier marriages and/or the financial support of the parties and any children
 - this document will be several pages and include information about any children born to the marriage, custody arrangements, the marital settlement agreement, and property division

Fees for the Process:

There are many expenses involved in the operation of an ecclesiastical tribunal (e.g., salaries, postage, supplies, etc.). As a matter of justice, many tribunals pass on some portion of those expenses to the parties who request their services. In the Diocese of Madison, the operating expenses of the tribunal are covered by contributions made from our parishes, and therefore there is no fee for the parties in the cause.

Please sign and date the statement below:

I understand that the *nihil obstat* cannot be granted unless the information provided clearly demonstrates the failure to observe canonical form.

I swear before God and my conscience that all the information given in this petition is true insofar as I know.

.....
Signature of Petitioner

.....
Date

.....
Signature of Priest Sponsor / Pastor

.....
Parish City