



**METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL**  
P. O. Box 070912  
3501 South Lake Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912  
(414) 769-3300  
tribunal@archmil.org

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## **PETITION FOR A CHURCH DECLARATION OF NULLITY**

DISTRIBUTE WITH THE TRIBUNAL BROCHURE "DECLARING A MARRIAGE NULL"

Dear Petitioner:

Enclosed, you will find the necessary information needed by the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to begin the process of review for a possible declaration of nullity. Please note the following instructions:

1. Complete each question. Make sure facts and dates are as accurate as possible. The section entitled **PETITIONER** is **you**. The section entitled **RESPONDENT** is for information regarding **your former spouse**.
2. In order to expedite your case, copies of your civil marriage certificate and civil divorce/annulment must accompany this application.
3. Please **do not** submit any information to our office until your civil divorce/annulment is granted. All applications submitted without necessary documentation will be returned.
4. **All** former marriages must be considered. Therefore, if you have been married more than once, an application form must be submitted for **each** previous marriage. (This would not be necessary if your former spouse(s) is deceased.)
5. **It is necessary that you provide a current address for your former spouse** if at all possible. Church law requires us to contact your former spouse and offer him/her a chance to participate in the review process.
6. In preparing your statement, we ask that you be aware that the Tribunal keeps all information received in this process as confidential as possible within the confines of Church law. But understand that this law allows that **both parties at least be made aware of the general allegations** made by the other in reference to the marriage. This information is communicated only according to the discretion of the judge and with the intervention of the parties' procurator/advocates.
7. In submitting this application, keep in mind that there are **no civil effects** to a Church declaration. This process pertains to Church matters only. This process does not effect the status of children.
8. Provisions of Church law, which must be observed, govern this judicial process. The average case takes approximately one year from the time of your deposition.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask your parish priest, deacon or parish director. You may also call one of the officials of the Tribunal at the number listed above. Please mail this completed petition to us at the address above.

Yours in Christ,

THE TRIBUNAL STAFF

**PETITIONER (YOUR INFORMATION)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last (Current) Maiden name, if woman

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State ZIP

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Private E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State

Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church City State

Religion (at time of marriage): \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Parish (if Catholic): \_\_\_\_\_

If you have changed religion, when did this occur? \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS**

Father: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Religion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State ZIP Phone

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Religion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State ZIP Phone

**RESPONDENT (YOUR FORMER SPOUSE INFORMATION-SOME TYPE OF CONTACT INFORMATION IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
First Middle Last (Current) Maiden name, if woman

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State ZIP

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Private E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State

Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church City State

Religion (at time of marriage): \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Parish (if Catholic): \_\_\_\_\_

If he/she has changed religion, when did this occur? \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS**

Father: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Religion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State ZIP Phone

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Religion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State ZIP Phone

**CHURCH OFFICIAL ASSISTING IN THIS PETITION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## MARRIAGE

Wedding:

\_\_\_\_\_

Officiant

\_\_\_\_\_

City

\_\_\_\_\_

State

If either party was Catholic, did this marriage take place outside the Catholic Church?      YES      NO  
If so, was there a Catholic Ceremony later?      YES      NO

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Officiant

\_\_\_\_\_

Church

\_\_\_\_\_

City

\_\_\_\_\_

State

## CHILDREN BORN OR ADOPTED IN THIS MARRIAGE

Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

How many?

\_\_\_\_\_

Birthdates

## DIVORCE

Civil Dissolution:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

County and State

Grounds cited in civil divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

***Briefly answer each of the following questions with two or three sentences. The information you provide here is used for the initial evaluation of your case. Your hearing at the Tribunal will provide an opportunity for you to give more details.***

## Introductory Questions

1. Was this your first marriage? (Whether in church, civilly, or by common law.)      YES      NO
2. Was it your spouse's first marriage? (Whether in church, civilly, or by common law.)      YES      NO  
If not, please list any other marriages by date as well as the religion of each former spouse.
  
3. After reviewing the booklet you received (entitled "Declaring a Marriage Null"), which of the grounds for nullity (**listed on page 4 in the online brochure, and page 6 in the hard copy brochure**) do you see as applying to your case?

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## Facts

### 1. Dates and time spans:

- a. When did the two of you first meet? (approximate date)
- b. How soon after meeting did you begin to date?
- c. How long did you date before the engagement? (years & months)
- d. How long were you engaged before the wedding? (years & months)

### 2. Characteristics of the Courtship and Engagement:

- a. Describe any problems during the courtship and engagement such as instability, arguing, breakups, drug/alcohol abuse, or premarital pregnancy.

- b. Describe any psychological or emotional problems.

- c. Describe any indications prior to the marriage that you, or your ex-spouse, might be unfaithful.

- d. As you look back, describe any circumstances under which either, or both, of you would have considered divorce. (For example: infidelity, impotence, lack of security, etc.)

e. Describe any conditions either of you might have required to get married or to stay in the marriage.  
(For example: "I'll marry you only if....")

f. Describe the attitude each of you had toward having children in the marriage.

g. Did you live together prior to marriage? If so, for how long?

3. Wedding: Ages on the day of the wedding:      Petitioner\_\_\_\_\_Respondent\_\_\_\_\_  
Describe anything unusual or abnormal that happened on the wedding day?

4. Marriage:

a. When did problems begin in the marriage?

b. What were the problems and what caused them?

5. Separation:

a. Explain any separations before the final one (with appropriate dates). Why did you get back together each time?

b. When (month and year) and why did the final separation occur?



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**WITNESSES**

A marriage case cannot be processed without witnesses. Please list **a minimum of three witnesses** whom you feel would have valuable information about your marriage and are willing to substantiate your testimony. Please contact each person you name and inform him/her that the Tribunal will contact them by mail.

For each witness, indicate whether a relative (i.e. mother, brother, sister-in-law), friend, or acquaintance of the petitioner or respondent.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

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**OTHER EVIDENCE**

Include with your application any other pertinent evidence to support your petition. These should include letters, restraining order, video of the wedding day, or any other documents.

**COPIES OF THE CIVIL MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND DIVORCE DECREE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.**

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**SPECIAL REQUESTS OR INSTRUCTIONS**

Are there any considerations that you would like the Tribunal to take into account as this process is begun. (For example: Confidentiality of present address, appointment times, need for translators, etc.)

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING THE PETITION CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY.  
BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU ARE CONSENTING TO ALL ITS CONTENTS.  
WHEN THIS PETITION, AND ALL ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS, ARE RECEIVED  
BY THE METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL PROCESSING OF YOUR CASE CAN BEGIN.

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## FORMAL PETITION

After careful thought and reflection, and after reviewing the materials provided to me,

I believe that my marriage to \_\_\_\_\_ (the Respondent) is invalid insofar as the Catholic Church understands marriage. I, therefore, petition the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to declare the invalidity of that marriage.

I contend that the marriage is invalid as a result of a defect in the consent of either the Respondent or myself. In support of this contention I offer the testimony that I will give as well as that of witnesses I have named in this application and other relevant evidence that may come to light.

The addresses of both the Respondent and myself are given on this application.

By virtue of my signature affixed below:

- I agree to, and mandate, whomsoever the Tribunal may appoint as my Procurator-Advocate and authorize him/her to do all that is necessary in my interest.
- I understand that my former spouse may be made aware of the general content of my application and that my former spouse might be allowed to exercise the right, provided in Church law, to review my testimony.
- I understand that professional counseling or special instructions may be mandated before permission to remarry will be granted. I further understand that all financial obligations imposed on me by the civil courts toward my former spouse and children, if any, must be current before I can remarry.
- **I understand that I may not set a date for any future marriage** until, and only if, a declaration of nullity, without restriction, is given. I understand that no priest, deacon, or parish director may provide me with even a tentative date for a future wedding in the Catholic Church until this process has been completed.
- I understand that **I will be assessed a processing fee** for the handling of this case regardless of its outcome. If necessary, I will make appropriate arrangements with the Judicial Vicar in light of my circumstances.

I testify that I am presenting this case in good faith and I am fully committed to this process. The statements in this application are true and complete. I agree to cooperate fully with the Tribunal and to be bound by the policies established by that Office in accordance with the law of the Church.

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Date

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Signature of the Petitioner