

Metropolitan Tribunal—Archdiocese of New York

1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (Tel) 646-794-3200

Petitioner Information Form

Dear Petitioner,

As you begin preparing the **Petitioner Information Form**, would like to remind you that the purpose of this application is formally to request that the Metropolitan Tribunal initiate an investigation to clarify whether or not you are bound by a previous marriage according to the teaching and law of the Roman Catholic Church. This form and the other required documents (see Checklist) will begin a formal canonical process to resolve the question concerning this marriage. The enclosed Petition, together with the required documents and your sworn testimony, as well as that of your former spouse and witnesses, will provide the basis by which the Tribunal Judges make a decision.

This Information Form is divided into four sections:

- The **first section** asks basic information regarding you (the Petitioner), about your former spouse (the Respondent), and about your courtship and marriage.
- The **second section** is to be completed **only if you cannot locate your former spouse** after trying the sources and avenues available to you.
- The **third section** contains a series of questions that will help the Tribunal understand the circumstances related to your marriage. This section also contains information, which will help you in proposing the reason or basis for the Tribunal to examine the validity of your marriage to the Respondent. Lastly, this section contains the Petition itself which is the official document required to open the investigation for a possible declaration of invalidity.
- The final section asks for the names and complete addresses of witnesses who can be cited by the Tribunal and asked to come in to give testimony about the marriage in question. The last page of this document is a checklist of what is required for you to submit to the Tribunal.

If you would like assistance in completing this form, please speak with a Priest or Deacon at the Parish. Once it is complete, please mail it and the required documents to the Tribunal office. The Tribunal will then notify you of the next steps in the process. In order for the process to run smoothly, it is important that you keep us informed of any change in address for you, your former spouse or your witnesses. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Tribunal.

If, after receiving your Petition and documentation, it is discovered that you have a special case, which might be better addressed, by another type of process, you will be contacted by the Tribunal to explain the options available to you.

The Tribunal cannot guarantee the outcome of the case nor provide a timeframe for its completion; **please do NOT set a date for a wedding** until you have the final decree in hand from the Tribunal. It is important to note that due to the COVID crisis and personnel shortages, the process can take <u>2 years</u> or, for difficult cases, possibly longer.

Very Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Hospodar, J.C.L. Judicial Vicar

** NEW FEES as of November 1, 2023, see page 22.

PRINT packet: <u>1-sided only.</u> Do <u>NOT</u> print 2-sided. (The back of each page must be blank.)

Section 1

Petitioner (you)

☐ I AFFIRM BEFORE GOD AND MY CONSCIENCE THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION I PROVIDE HEREIN IS TRUE AND COMPLETE.

CONTA	CT INFORMATION		PLEASE F	EASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION IN BLACK				
Title	First Name			Middle Nam	e			
Current I	Last Name			Family/Maic	l en Name			
Address					Male Female			
City			County	State		ZIP		
Email:			C	Occupation:				
Please indicate how you may be contacted about your case in addition to regular mail:								
Home Telephone ()								
	Telephone	()					
Work Te	•	()		ext.			
			,					
You auth	You authorize us to leave a message regarding your case at: Email Home phone Cell Work							
	APHICAL INFORMA	FION						
	Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)							
	Birth: City Province			Country				
	he marriage in question	worow	ou ovor hantizod? Vos	Country	Not Known			
	, in which church or dei	<u> </u>						
li yes		IUIIIIIau	on were you baptized?					
What	was the date of your b	antism?	(mm/dd/vvvv)					
	ict baptism date not yet			ear:				
	ch or parish of baptism							
• ••	-							
Stree	et							
Citv.	State or Province, Zip (Code			Country			
- · · j /								
What wa	as your religion or denor	mination	at the time of the wedd	ding?				
	igion or denomination d							
Curre	ent parish or congregation	on						
City								
State	or Province			Country				
Is there	any Eastern Rite (Catho	olic or Or	thodox) affiliation in yo	3	kground (e.g.,	Byzantine, Ruthenian,		
	n, Maronite, Armenian,			If yes, which		-		

Respondent (the former spouse to the marriage)

Title	First Name	Middle Name							
Current	Last Name		Family N	ame					
Street A	vddress	I	L					Male Female	
City	County		State				ZI		
Telepho	ephone: Country		Are you in contact with the Respondent at this time?					his time?	
Email:		·		Responder	nt's Occupa	ation:			
IMPORTANT NOTE: You <u>MUST</u> provide the complete current mailing address for the <i>Respondent</i> . Without this information, the case may not be accepted. If you have made serious efforts to locate the Respondent, but still cannot provide a complete address, see Section 2 and provide all documentation.									
Respon	ident's Date of Birth (mm	/dd/yyyy)							
Place of	f Birth: City		State or	Province		(Country		
Before r	marrying you, was the Re	espondent ev	er baptizer	d? Yes 🗌	No 🗌	Not Known	۱ 🗌		
If yes	s, in which church or den	omination wa	is the Resp	pondent ba	aptized?				
lf exa	It was the date of the Res act baptism date not avai rch or parish of baptism				y)				
Stree	ət								
City,	State or Province, Zip C	Code			C	Country			
What w	as the Respondent's relig	gion or denon	nination at	the time of	f the weddi	ing?			
What re	eligion or denomination de	bes the Resp	ondent nov	w observe	or practice	?			
Current	parish or congregation								
City									
State or	r Province	Country	у						
	any Eastern Rite (Catho an, Maronite, Armenian, (family back yes, which?		., Byzanti	ine, Ruth	enian,

Courtship & Wedding

Briefly, when and how did you and the Respond	lent meet? (Date:)	Circumstances :	
How long was your courtship before you decide	d to marry?		
Was there a formal engagement period prior to If yes, Date of Engagement	Length	of Engagement	
Did you and the Respondent live together (coha If yes, how long did you live together before If yes, did this have any effect on your decisi	marriage?	Yes No	
Was there a pregnancy or suspicion of a pregna If yes, did this have any effect on your decisi			
Did you and the Respondent enter into a pre-nu If yes, please attach a copy of the agreement		No	
In your marriage preparation did you participate	in: Catholic Couple Cl Prepare/Enrich? Another program?	neckup? Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes No No	
Exact date of the wedding in question (mm/dd/	уууу)		
The marriage was performed / witnessed by a	Catholic priest or dead Other (indicate by who	con 🗌 Other religious off om)	icial 🗌 Civil official
Name of priest, minister, or officiant			
Church or place of marriage			
Address			
City	State or Province		ZIP
Country			
Where was the civil marriage license obtained? If appropriate, Country	County	State or Provin	се
If a civil marriage preceded the church wedding	, Date of convalidation or	"blessing" (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Name of church or parish			
City		State	ZIP
Country			
Name of priest or deacon			
Why did you have your marriage convalidate	ed at that time?		
Vas your marriage to the Respondent your first		ne Respondent married to	anvone before vou
bid you ever petition for an annulment for	-	- If YES, what diocese	

IMPORTANT NOTE: If either you or the Respondent were ever married to anyone before this marriage (whether a civil or a religious wedding), please list information about each prior marriage on the following page.

Other Marriages (before & after) -Yours

lf you were n	narried at any time before or	after marrying the Respondent,	complete the	following for each	and every marriage:
Marriage #	Name of Your Spouse	Date (mm/dd/yyyy) and Place of Wedding (City, State, Country) and Type of Ceremony: Civil or Religious	Was this the 1st marriage for your	If applicable, Date and Place of this Spouse's Death	Was this Marriage Declared Null by the Catholic Church?
1			spouse? Yes If NO, list # of prior marriages:		Yes No Tribunal location, case # or date:
2			Yes If NO, list # of prior marriages:		Yes No Tribunal location, case # or date:
3			Yes If NO, list # of prior marriages:		Yes No Tribunal location, case # or date:

If you have Final Decrees from another Court or Tribunal regarding the nullity/dissolution of any other marriages, please attach them to this petition.

Respondent's

If the Respo	If the Respondent was married at any time before or after marrying you, complete the following for each and every marriage:									
Marriage	Name of their Spouse	Date (mm/dd/yyyy) and	Was this	If applicable,	Was this					
#			the first	Date and	Marriage					
		Place of Wedding	marriage	Place of this	Declared Null					
		(City, State, Country)	for this Spouse's		by the Catholic					
			spouse?	Death	Church?					
1			Yes		🗌 Yes 🗌 No					
			If NO, list #		Tribunal location,					
			of prior		case # or date, if					
			marriages:		known:					
2			Yes		Yes No					
			If NO, list #		Tribunal location,					
			of prior		case # or date, if					
			marriages:		known:					
			5							
3			Yes		Yes No					
			If NO, list #		Tribunal location,					
			of prior		case # or date, if					
			marriages:		known:					
			-							

If you have Final Decrees from another Court or Tribunal regarding the nullity/dissolution of any other marriages, please attach them to this petition.

Separation & Divorce	
Approximately how long were you married to the Respondent before	re the final separation?
Number of separations during the marriage Approximate date	of the first separation
What brought about the first separation (briefly)?	
Any other separations (briefly)?	
What brought about the <u>final</u> separation (briefly)?	
what brought about the man separation (brieny).	
Data of final conception month	
Date of final separation — month yea	
Date of the civil divorce — month day year	On what grounds was the suit for divorce/annulment
Was it a Divorce or Civil Annulment	brought?
County	State
(or, if applicable, country)	
Name of Court which granted the divorce/annulment	
	espondent did
Children	·
How many children were born during your marriage to the Respo	indent?
The many children were born during your manage to the respe	
List the year of birth for each child:	
If there were no children born during the marriage, why not?	
How many children did you adopt during your marriage to the Re	spondent?
If any, in what year(s):	
How many children are still minors today?	
Who now has legal custody of the children?	
Have you been fulfilling your obligations of visitation/custody of the	ne children?
Has the Respondent been fulfilling the obligations of visitation/cu	
Are you obligated to pay child and/or spousal support assessed to Are these being met? Yes No	by the civil courts? [_] Yes [_] No
Is the Respondent obligated to pay child and/or spousal support	assessed by the civil courts? 🗌 Yes 🥅 No
Are these being met? Yes No	,

Is there any ongoing or pending litigation in the civil Courts between you and the Respondent? Yes No If yes, please briefly describe:

Is there a current protection-from-abuse order, restraining order, or similar court order in effect between you and the Respondent? Yes No. Was there ever such an order? Yes No. If yes, which one? Please describe the events that led up to it:

Your Current Status

What is	your current marital status?	ivilly Remarried						
If you are remarried or engaged: Full Name of your current or intended spouse:								
Title:	First Name:		Middle:		Last Name:			
Family	name			Male Female				
Street	Address							
City		State		ZIP	Country			
Religio	n of current or intended spouse	2:		Date of Birth	(mm/dd/yyyy):			
of Adults)	If not Catholic, are either you or your current / intended spouse enrolled in a Catholic RCIA (<i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i>) Program? Yes No If yes, in which parish?							
City				State				
If Christian, what is the date of your current/intended spouse's Baptism? Did your current/intended spouse ever change religions								
Is this you	Is this your only marriage since your marriage to the Respondent? Yes No							
Was your	Was your current or intended spouse ever married before (in either a civil or religious ceremony)?							
IMPORTANT NOTE: If your intended spouse has any prior marriages, please be certain to inform the Tribunal of this fact. If neither party is free to marry, no wedding can take place in the Catholic Church.								

Section 2

Your Efforts to Locate Your Former Spouse

If you are unable to provide the Tribunal with a complete current address for the Respondent, please complete the questions below. In some cases it may not be possible to accept the case without this information.

YOU MUST PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION FOR ALL SEARCHES AND INVESTIGATIONS ATTEMPTED

Full name of the other spouse to the	e marriage in question:			
First Name	Middle Name		Last Name	
Has this person ever been known b	y another name (for exam	nple, a maiden nam	e, an alias, a former name):	
If yes, please list all known aliases of First	or family / former names: <i>Middle</i>	Last	Date(s) when name was used:	
When was your last contact with the	Respondent	🗌 in	person 🗌 by phone 🗌 by mail/e-mai	I
Last known address of the Respond	Jent:			
Street				
City		State	ZIP	
If appropriate, country		Telephone	Email	
When was the last date you kne	w the Respondent to be a	at the above addres		
Last known telephone number ()		Home Work Cell	
Last known employment: company	or employer			
Street Address				
City		State	ZIP	
If you had children, please explain	vhy one of these could no	ot provide you with a	current contact information for the	
Respondent:				
Addresses of relatives of the Respo	ndent who could be conta	acted to forward cor	respondence:	
Please list in detail what efforts y	ou have made to locate	the Respondent's	current address	
Please list in detail what efforts y • Cities/Towns for which you looked				
Please list in detail what efforts y • Cities/Towns for which you looked				
Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked	in telephone books (avai	lable at libraries) or	called Directory Assistance:	
Cities/Towns for which you looked	in telephone books (avai	lable at libraries) or	called Directory Assistance:	
Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked	in telephone books (avai	lable at libraries) or	called Directory Assistance:	
 Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked Names and contact information for 	in telephone books (avai r Attorneys, investigators	lable at libraries) or or other professiona	called Directory Assistance: als you contacted for help:	
Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked	in telephone books (avai r Attorneys, investigators	lable at libraries) or or other professiona	called Directory Assistance: als you contacted for help:	
 Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked Names and contact information for 	in telephone books (avai r Attorneys, investigators	lable at libraries) or or other professiona	called Directory Assistance: als you contacted for help:	
 Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked Names and contact information for 	in telephone books (avai r Attorneys, investigators	lable at libraries) or or other professiona	called Directory Assistance: als you contacted for help:	
 Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked Names and contact information for Names and contact information for 	in telephone books (avai r Attorneys, investigators r mutual friends, in-laws, f	lable at libraries) or or other professiona former neighbors, c	called Directory Assistance: als you contacted for help:	
 Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked Names and contact information for Names and contact information for 	in telephone books (avai r Attorneys, investigators r mutual friends, in-laws, f	lable at libraries) or or other professiona former neighbors, c	called Directory Assistance: als you contacted for help: o-workers, etc., you contacted:	1
 Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked Names and contact information for Names and contact information for On-line search engines & paid ser 	in telephone books (avai r Attorneys, investigators r mutual friends, in-laws, f	lable at libraries) or or other professiona former neighbors, c	called Directory Assistance: als you contacted for help: o-workers, etc., you contacted:)
 Cities/Towns for which you looked Date last checked Names and contact information for Names and contact information for On-line search engines & paid ser 	in telephone books (avai r Attorneys, investigators r mutual friends, in-laws, f vices you used to try to lo	lable at libraries) or or other professiona former neighbors, c	called Directory Assistance: als you contacted for help: o-workers, etc., you contacted:)

Section 3

Preparation of Your Petition

The following pages contain several brief questions, which will help the Tribunal to propose grounds for nullity. These questions may also guide you in your understanding of possible grounds. Please answer these questions in the brief space provided below. The Tribunal Judges will determine the actual ground(s) for the case, usually after hearing from the Respondent, and will then inform you.

Please remember that it is not necessary to go into detail in answering the following questions. These are preliminary questions only, and you will have the opportunity later to give in-depth answers to questions relevant to your case before a Judge.

Please remember: if your marriage was later convalidated or "blessed" in the Catholic Church, these

questions refer to the time of that convalidation or "blessing," and not to the civil wedding.

Courtship and Decision to Marry

When and how did you and the Respondent meet?

What was happening in your life at the time you met the Respondent? (Give details)

What else was happening in the <u>Respondent's life</u> at the time you met? (Give details)

Who brought up the topic of marriage, and under what circumstances? (Explain the circumstances)

Did anything specific, or anything unusual, occur that prompted your decision to marry? (If YES, please explain)

Was there any pressure to marry on either party? \Box Yes \Box No. (If YES, please explain):

How did the engagement occur?

Was the engagement ever cancelled or broken? Yes No. If yes, explain the circumstances, any problems that existed during the engagement, and how and why you reconciled:

Was there any force used or fear instilled (internal or external) to marry the Respondent? For the Respondent to marry you? Please explain.

Your Concept of Marriage Itself

At the time of your marriage, did you envision any event or circumstance that would allow you to end the marriage and enter another marriage? \Box Yes \Box No. Please explain your answer:

To your knowledge did the Respondent envision any such event or circumstance? Yes No.	Please explain your
answer:	

Prior to this marriage, what was your experience of divorce among family and friends?

What was the Respondent's experience?

Do you believe that you and the Respondent shared the same notion of marriage at the time of the wedding? \Box Yes \Box No. Please explain your answer:

Please complete the following, as you would have at the time of your marriage:

Marriage Until Death Do Us Part" means...

Before the wedding, what had you and the Respondent discussed and decided about having children in the marriage?

Did you both share the same ideas and decisions about having children in the marriage? Yes No.

Please explain your answer:

Did either you or your former spouse reserve the right to determine when/if to attempt to have children?

Did either of you place conditions on when to attempt to have children (e.g., if the marriage is successful, if a certain financial stability is reached, if a certain career goal is attained)? Please explain.

Did you make a plan regarding the delaying of children through **any means or method** of birth control or some form of sterilization? If so, what was the plan? Was it carried out? Who used birth control and for how long? Who had the sterilization?

Days prior to the wedding was either of you sexually active with someone else? Mes No. (If YES, please explain)

Was infidelity a problem in your marriage to the Respondent? \Box Yes \Box No.

If yes, by which spouse, or both?

If either or both were unfaithful, please answer the following:

What was the act?

When did the first act of infidelity occur?

Was infidelity a continuing problem? \Box Yes \Box No. If yes, please elaborate.

At the time of the marriage, did you believe that infidelity gives a spouse the right to end the marriage and enter another?

General Considerations

Please explain briefly what problems, issues, or factors you believe caused this marriage to fail, and when each first appeared:

Were you aware of any of the above problems or issues before the wedding? Yes No. If yes, please explain why you did not consider the problem/problems serious at that time, or why you decided to marry nevertheless:

What would the Respondent say was your role in the problems and breakdown of the marriage?

What was the Respondent's role?

When did you stop living together as husband and wife? (What year?)

What led up to the final separation?

Did you discover, after the wedding, something relevant to the marriage that had been hidden or not disclosed before the wedding? If yes, please explain:

Did you marry for a reason other than marriage itself (for example, a pregnancy, a green card, etc.)? Did the Respondent?

Was there any condition set prior to the wedding by either you or the Respondent to be fulfilled by either of you after the wedding? If so, please explain.

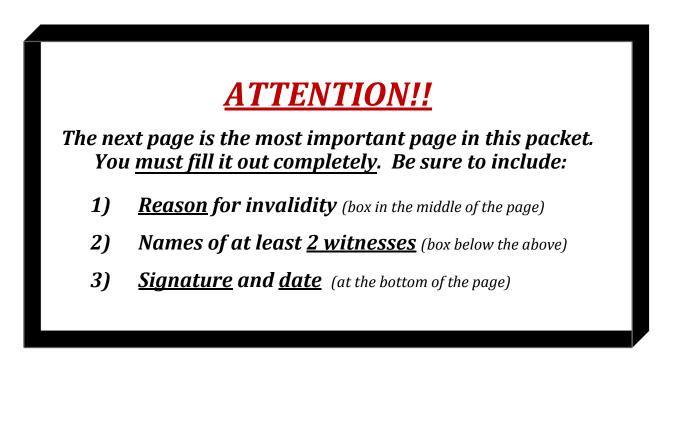
Preparing Your Petition

The "Petition" is at the end of this section. It contains basic information required by Canon Law. It contains a section in which you are asked to write a very brief description of why you think the marriage was not valid and binding from the beginning. There are a limited number of grounds or legal bases for considering the validity of marriage. The following descriptions of the most common of these grounds may help you to prepare your brief statement. The Tribunal is not concerned with pointing fingers or finding moral fault with either spouse, but with learning the truth of the marriage. Any basis or circumstance for a declaration of invalidity must have existed from the very beginning of the marriage, that is, on the wedding day (or the day of convalidation or "blessing").

Please indicate whether or not the following existed on the day of the wedding:

- [Please be advised that <u>the following are NOT grounds for invalidity</u>: Immaturity, incompatibility, lack of communication, infirmity after the fact, infidelity, later onset addictions, wrong choice of spouse, or post-marital trauma (e.g., the death of a child).]
- □ If at the time of your wedding you did not hold that your marriage would be an exclusive union... that is one or both of you considered the marriage "open" or considered it acceptable to have other sexual partners during your future marriage, you could write, "an intention against fidelity."
- □ If at the time of the wedding one or both of you decided to exclude the possibility of having children during the duration of your marriage, or if you and/or the other party mutually or unilaterally decided to postpone having children until some indeterminate time or condition was met, or if you <u>always</u> used some means of contraception to prevent pregnancy, you could write, "the exclusion of children."
- □ If there was a pre-marital pregnancy... If the fact or suspicion of a pre-marital pregnancy caused the decision to marry this might be a factor. Did you feel pressured to marry because of the pregnancy, whether it was internal pressure or pressure from someone else? If so, you could write, "pressure to marry because of pregnancy."
- If at the time of the wedding there were serious problems with addictions...If the problems affected one or both of you in your decision making ability, or in your ability to function normally, or if they prevented one or both of you from being able to fulfill the basic obligations of marriage, you could write, "alcohol (and/or drug) abuse which prevented fulfilling the basic obligations of marriage," or "alcohol (and/or drug) abuse which prevented sound decision-making at the time of marriage." It is important to state when the addiction started. Please note, the use of this ground on either party will require a psychological/psychiatric evaluation by a tribunal appointed doctor at your expense, to be paid directly to the doctor (approx. \$600).
- If psychological/psychiatric illness affected the party(ies) or marriage... A person must be capable of living out the commitment of marriage, including being a spouse and a parent, even with illness. If serious psychiatric illness prevented either you or your former spouse from understanding or fulfilling the basic obligations of marriage, you could write, "serious psychiatric or psychological illness which prevented the fulfillment of the basic obligations of marriage." Please note, the use of this ground on either party will require a psychological/psychiatric evaluation by a tribunal appointed doctor at your expense, to be paid directly to the doctor (approx. \$300-\$450). Other medical proofs may also be necessary.
- If fraud led to the marriage... If you or your former spouse had been told a lie in order to convince you to marry, or if something important was intentionally concealed in order to get you to marry, you could write, "fraud intended to lead to marriage."
- If at the time of your marriage, you or your former spouse did not hold that your marriage was "until death"... If in fact you or your former spouse excluded from your marriage all probability of marital permanence, you can write, "exclusion of the permanence of marriage."

- If homosexuality was an issue in the marriage... Homosexuality is not a ground of invalidity in itself, but confusion over sexuality and self-image can prevent or interfere with the marital relationship and marital intimacy. If this was a factor in the marriage, you could write, "inability to fulfill the obligations of a (husband/wife) because of homosexuality." It is important to include whether homosexual feelings or confusion existed prior to the marriage, how soon into the marriage this became a problem, and whether the marriage ended principally because of homosexuality.
- If you did not intend to marry at all... Sometimes a couple will go through a legal or religious marriage ceremony for a reason connected with immigration, insurance, or finances, and not out of the idea of marriage itself. In other words, they were pretending to marry. If such was the case in this marriage, you could write, "simulation of marriage for reasons of (immigration/insurance/____)."
- □ If one or both of you entered this marriage against your will... If either spouse, or both, did not agree to marry freely but because of some force, or out of fear (even a deep-seated fear of displeasing someone important to you such as a parent or clergyman), you could write, "force (or fear) to enter marriage." This might apply also if the marriage was arranged (as happens in some cultures) and you or your spouse did not want to marry.
- Error of person or error quality principally and directly intended... If your former spouse falsified his or her identity at the time of marriage, such that you thought you were marrying a different person, you could write, "error of person." If in choosing to marry your former spouse you were actually focused primarily on some quality that you thought the other had (i.e., she is a doctor, he is a vegetarian), but later discovered that he or she was not, and <u>you or the Respondent desired that quality more than marriage itself</u>, you could write, "error principally and directly intended," also indicating the quality about which you were in error.
- Condition... If you placed any condition on the marriage—either concerning the past, present or future, you could write, "past/present/future condition," also indicating what the condition concerned and whether or not the condition was actually fulfilled.



Petition

The Tribunal will normally send a copy of this Petition page to the Respondent when the trial begins.

PETITIONER		RESPONDENT
Your full name (Family name als	o, if applicable)	Full name of spouse to this marriage (Family Name)
Address (street, city, state, zip)		City of Residence (Respondent)
· ·	-	nal of the Archdiocese of New York accept this
between the spouses name	ed above was not	
		following date and at the following place:
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	City, Stat	e, and Country
(Arch)diocese	Church N	lame and Address
, <u> </u>	<u>ty</u> on which the grot	und(s) you allege apply: yourself, your former spouse or both,
<u>WITNESSES</u> : I name the	following witne	esses who are knowledgeable about the above
<u>WITNESSES</u> : I name the	following witne	esses who are knowledgeable about the above and offer sworn testimony: (This <u>MUST</u> be completed.
<u>WITNESSES</u> : I name the ground(s) and who are w 1	following witne	esses who are knowledgeable about the above and offer sworn testimony: (This <u>MUST</u> be completed. 2
<u>WITNESSES</u> : I name the ground(s) and who are w	following witne	esses who are knowledgeable about the above and offer sworn testimony: (This <u>MUST</u> be completed.
<u>WITNESSES</u> : I name the ground(s) and who are w 1	following witne	esses who are knowledgeable about the above and offer sworn testimony: (This <u>MUST</u> be completed. 2

** If Respondent signs: Respondent's signature must be <u>notarized</u> and a <u>copy of Respondent's gov't issued ID</u> must be included

For Tribunal Use: Date Received	Date Accepted by Judicial Vicar
	Very Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Hospodar, JCL Judicial Vicar

Section 4

Witnesses

It is <u>absolutely</u> necessary to provide the names and complete addresses of <u>several</u> witnesses (preferably at least four) who can support the grounds of your case. The best witnesses are friends, co-workers, family members, roommates, or others who knew both you and the Respondent before and during the marriage. <u>Please contact your</u> witnesses personally and inform them that you will give their names and addresses to the Tribunal. If you do not contact them, they may be surprised and even angered when the Tribunal cites them. Their refusal to answer questions can seriously delay or affect the outcome of your case.

Please apprise the witnesses of the following:

- 1) They must appear in person to testify about their knowledge of the marriage
- 2) Their interview should preferably be on the same day as your own interview with the Judge. You are responsible for coordinating this with your witnesses.

Testimony is taken Monday - Friday during normal business hours in accordance with the judge's schedule.

Witnesses who do not live within the Archdiocese will be given the opportunity to provide testimony in the Tribunal of their local diocese. Neither "telephone testimony" nor written statements are permitted to take the place of oral testimony.

Testimony can be taken via **Skype/ FaceTime/ WhatsApp/ Zoom**. To do so, you must contact the Metropolitan Tribunal at <u>tribunal@archny.org</u> for procedures and rules to verify that you qualify.

*** PLEASE NOTE: Witness cell numbers are preferable ***

	1	Title:		First Name:		Middle:		Last Name:			
	Stree	t Address							Ema	ail:	
	City:				State:			Zip:		Country:	
**	Telep	hone #()	cell preferred	Gender		How long h	as this	person known you?		
	Relat	ionship to	you								
	Relat	ionship to f	he R	espondent							
	Did th	nis person	know	both you and the Re	spondent at	the time	e of the marri	iage? [Yes	🗌 No	
	What	will this pe	erson	be able to tell the Tri	bunal, in ger	neral ter	ms?	•			
	Did th	nis person a	agree	to be a witness and	to testify at t	he Trib	unal Office?				
			0		,						

*** PLEASE NOTE: Witness cell numbers are preferable ***

	2	Title:	First Name:		Middle:		Last Name:	
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	City:			State:		Zip:	Country:	
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			w both you and the Re n be able to tell the Tril			riage?]Yes 🗌 No	
	Did th	nis person agre	ee to be a witness and	to testify at th	e Tribunal Office?			

Witnesses (continued)

Stroo	Title:	First Name:		Middle:			Last Nam	e:
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		nbers are preferable ***						
4	Title:	First Name:		Middle:			Last Nam	e:
Stree	t Address						Ema	ail:
City:			State:			Zip :		Country:
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Witnesses (continued)

Professional or Expert Witnesses — If you saw a Professional **about issues related to your grounds** at any time before or during the marriage, please answer the following:

Did you see	a Licensed Counselor, Psychologist, Psy	chiatrist, or Clinical Social V	Norker?
□No	Yes, I did, without the Respondent	Yes, we did together	Yes, the Respondent did, without me
Did you see	a Medical Doctor or other health profession	ional (about issues related t	o this marriage) within the past 5 years?
□No	Yes, I did, without the Respondent	Yes, we did together	Yes, the Respondent did, without me
	y of the above, would you be willing to sig hat is relevant to your case (if the Tribuna		
	DTE THAT IF THE RESPONDENT WAS SEE ENT TO SIGN A RELEASE AND AUTHORIZ		

If psychiatric or psychological illness played a role in the problems that existed at the time of this marriage, it will be helpful to the case if you submit certified (notarized) copies of any medical or hospital records in your possession which show a diagnosis and treatment dates. If physical abuse was present in the marriage, it will be helpful to submit certified (notarized) copies of any records in your possession regarding this, such as medical, hospital, or police records. **Photocopies of records, which are not notarized, will not be accepted.** Only original documents or notarized copies of the originals will be accepted by the Tribunal.

Pastor/Parochial Vicar (applicable to Catholics only)

If you are Catholic, please arrange to meet with your pastor/associate vicar to discuss the application/petition prior to submission.

I have met with the petitioner and confirm the following:	
I confirm that I have read the Petition on page 16.	
I confirm that the <u>box in the middle</u> of the Petition	contains <u>canonical grounds</u> for nullity as listed on pgs 14-15.
□ I confirm that the petitioner has <u>signed</u> and <u>dated</u>	the petition.
Signature	Date
Parish	



I,

POLICY STATEMENT

_____, the Petitioner, understand that:

- A declaration of nullity cannot be issued unless I have provided evidence sufficient to overcome the presumption of validity of my marriage.
- My submitting the Petition does not guarantee that a declaration of nullity will be granted.
- The other party (respondent) has the right to know why I allege our marriage is invalid and will receive a copy of my Petition; furthermore, she/he will be invited to participate in these proceedings and all his/her rights will be protected as well as mine, including the right to inspect the Acts of the case (declarations, testimonies, etc.)
- I <u>cannot set</u> (even tentatively) <u>a date</u> for marriage or validation in the Catholic Church until the nullity of the previous marriage/s has/have been established with certainty according to the laws of the Church. I understand that due to the COVID crisis and personnel shortages, the process can take <u>2 years or, for</u> <u>difficult cases, possibly longer</u>.
- No assurance of the outcome or the time it will take to complete the process can be given.
- If there is a judgment granting the declaration of nullity, it may contain a clause delaying or restricting permission to remarry in the Church.
- If the grounds on either myself or the respondent are psychological in nature and require a psychological/ psychiatric evaluation, <u>I am fully responsible for all fees</u> charged by a tribunal appointed doctor. In addition, these <u>fees are to be paid directly to the doctor</u> (approx. \$700).

I hereby certify that:

- I have contacted the witnesses whose names and addresses I have supplied, and they agree to participate.
- I understand that I am not to discuss the facts of my case with them.
- I have kept a photocopy of the materials I am submitting.

And I swear to the truthfulness of the evidence I am submitting.

Signature:

Date:



METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL – ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (646) 794-3200

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

I ______, the <u>Petitioner</u> in this case, understand that this trial is being conducted in accordance with the Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church, and that these proceedings are of a purely spiritual and religious nature, and that I am being given the opportunity to review the documents, testimony, and procedural acts of the case not known to me for the sole purpose of assisting me in the effective exercise of my rights before the Tribunal. I hereby undertake and promise as follows:

- 1) I voluntarily waive now and in the future any right under law to the subpoena or judicial discovery of the documents and evidence of this case apart from a case in this ecclesiastical tribunal. This waiver is given without reservation or condition.
- 2) I agree to keep confidential and secret any information that I shall learn in the course of these proceedings. To that end, I affirm that I shall make no copies or recordings of information or conversations regarding my case. I promise not to use information that I may learn through this case in any other forum or for any other purpose.
- 3) I promise not to discuss, publish, or disseminate through any means the information that I may learn here. I promise not to make use of this information in any way other than to prepare and argue my case before the tribunals of the Catholic Church. In all other places and for all other purposes I agree to keep all information I shall learn from this case confidential.
- 4) I understand that there may be expert reports and reviews, including psychological or other evaluations, that may be created or submitted in connection with this case, and I hereby intentionally waive any and all right to review them or have any form of access to them for any purpose.
- 5) I recognize that if I should violate or threaten to violate this agreement, I consent to the authority of the tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York to impose any penal remedy, penance, and/or penalty for this offense, as permitted by the canon law of the Church, and to seek relief or remedy in any court of law or equity.
- 6) I assume in perpetuity any responsibility for damage inflicted to others by my intentional or negligent release of information learned through this case and agree to hold harmless from such damages the Archdiocese of New York as well as all persons who have offered testimony or documents in this case, and all officers and agents of the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York.

I acknowledge that I have read the above provisions of this agreement and policy, and I fully understand them, and I further freely agree to abide by them now and in the future. I do so solemnly attest before God and my conscience.

SO HELP ME GOD.

* Signature

Date

* Respondent to sign when giving testimony or viewing the acts Page 21

^{*} Petiitioner to sign when submitting application

		Checklist
		following are REQUIRED in order to submit your case. <u>If any of the following are missing, your cation will be returned</u>
		Completed Petitioner's Information Form (no blank spaces) in black or blue ink
	20	Petition (pg. 16): Signed and dated with original signature
	8	Petition (pg. 16): Entered at least one of the grounds from pgs 14-15 in the middle box
	4	Policy Statement (pg 20) & Confidentiality Statement: Signed and dated with original signature
] 6	Application Fee (non-refundable): (due whether submitting a petition before or after Nov. 1, 2023) \$100 check, payable to the <u>Archdiocese of NY</u>
	The fo	Dellowing Documents:
	[] 6	Marriage Certificate (Church) - Original updated for the marriage in question
	0	Marriage License and/or Certificate (State) - <u>Original</u> for the marriage in question Long form only, see next 2 pages)
	8	Divorce and/or Civil Annulment Decree for the marriage in question
	0	Baptismal Certificate of Petitioner - <u>Original updated</u> (<u>issued</u> within the <u>past 6 months</u>). A copy <u>WILL NOT</u> be accepted
		Please make and retain a copy of all forms and documents.
ls o	of Nover	nber 1, 2023:
		g fees will be incurred for formal cases heard before the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York:

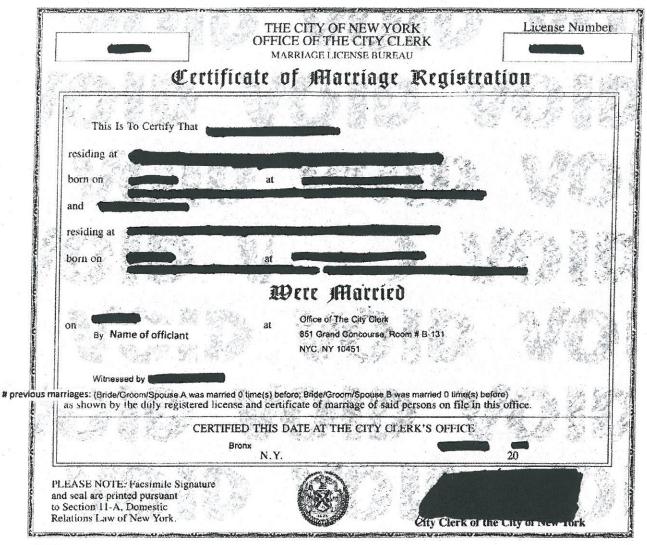
- Application fee (non-refundable) to be paid when an application is submitted \$100
- Administrative fee to be paid according to a mutually agreed upon installment plan; this fee represents only a portion of the \$900 costs incurred. If your finances change and you wish to alter your payment plan, call the Tribunal. No one is ever turned away from the Tribunal because of an inability to pay.

Please indicate how you will pay the \$900 administrative fee: One (1) payment of \$900. Two (2) installments: \$450 when the case is accepted and \$450 when testimony has been collected. Ten (10) monthly installments of \$90 each, payable the first day of the month (starting next month). monthly installments of \$ each, payable on the day of the month.

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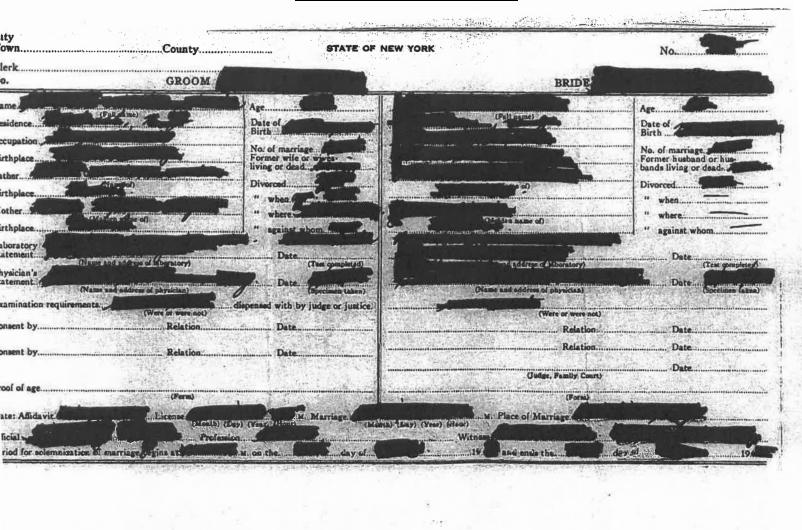
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	GISTER CERTIFICATE C				
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/	BRIDE/GROOM/SPOUSE	BRIDE/GROOM/SPOUSE			
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	FIRST MIDDLE CURRENT SURNAME	FIRST MIDDLE CURRENT SURNAME			
ťΖ	B. BIRTH NAME, IF DIFFERENT	B. BIRTH NAME, IF DIFFERENT			
	C. SURVAME AFTER MARRIAGE (OPTIONAL - SEE REVERSE) D. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	C. SURNAME AFTER MARRIAGE (OPTIONAL - SEE REVERSE) D. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER			
	2 RESIDENCE A B	12. RESIDENCE A. B.			
		C. CHECK ONE CITY TOWN VILLAGE (COUNTY)			
щ	AND SPECIFY	AND SPECIFY			
STA	D. STREET ADDRESS ZIP	D. STREET ADDRESS ZIP			
	E. IS RESIDENCE WITHIN LIMITS OF CITY OR INCORPORATED VILLAGE? YES NO	E. IS RESIDENCE WITHIN LIMITS OF CITY OR INCORPORATED VILLAGE? YES NO			
	3. A. AGE B. DATE OF BIRTH C. SEX (OPTIONAL)	13. A. AGE 8. DATE OF BIRTH C. SEX (OPTIONAL)			
	4. EMPLOYMENT	14. EMPLOYMENT			
	A. USUAL OCCUPATION B. TYPE OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS	A. USUAL OCCUPATION			
	5. PLACE OF BIRTH	15. PLACE OF BIRTH			
	(CITY, STATE / COUNTRY, IF NOT USA) 6. FATHER OR PARENT	(CITY, STATE / COUNTRY, IF NOT USA) 16. FATHER OR PARENT			
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	8. COUNTRY OF BIRTH	B. COUNTRY OF BIRTH			
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	A. NAME (OR MAIDEN NAME, IF APPLICABLE)	A. NAME (OR MAIDEN NAME, IF APPLICABLE)			
Ē		B. COUNTRY OF BIRTH			
	8. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE 9. PREVIOUS MARRIAGES	18. NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE 19. PREVIOUS MARRIAGES			
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	DIVORCE: CIVIL ANNULMENT: DEATH:	DIVORCE: CIVIL ANNULMENT: DEATH:			
	B. HOW DID LAST MARRIAGE END? DIVORCE (3) ANNULMENT (3) DEATH (2)				
	C. DATE LAST MARRIAGE ENDED?	C. DATE LAST MARRIAGE ENDED?			
	D. ARE ANY FORMER SPOUSE(S) ALME? YES NO				
	10. IF PREVIOUSLY DIVORCED OR ANNULLED, PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION DATE OF DECREE PLACE ISSUED AGAINST WHOM	20. IF PREVIOUSLY DIVORCED OR ANNULLED, PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION DATE OF DECREE PLACE ISSUED AGAINST WHOM			
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	I duly swear/affirm, depose and say, that to the best of my knowledge and believed	f that the information I provided is true and that I declare that no legal impediment			
5	exists as to my right to enter into the marriage state.	22. SIGNATURE			
	21. SIGNATURE USE CURRENT NAME 23. SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO/AFFIRMED BEFORE ME	USE CURRENT NAME			
	SIGNATURE OF TOWN OR CITY CLERK	DATE DATE DATE			
$\left(\right)$	Domestic Relations Law § 11 to perform marriage ceremonies within I	ew York State. THIS LICENSE VALID IN NEW YORK STATE ONLY.			
Щ		the purpose of a second or subsequent ceremony.			
LICENS		25. A. SOLEMNIZATION PERIOD BEGINS 25. B. SOLEMNIZATION PERIOD ENDOX A MIDNIGHT ON:			
5		TIME MONTH DAY YEAR MONTH DAY YEAR			
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R	29. OFFICIANT TITLE NAME (PRINT)	C. LOCATION OF CEREMONY (CHECK ONE AND SPECIFY)			
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ERTIFICATE	MAILING ADDRESS:	OF (SPECIFY)			
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CERTIFICATE					
	NAME (PRINT)	NAME (PRINT)			
(a	98GATURE >	SIGNATURE Revised 12/07/2023			
	DOH-98 (7/2011)				

EXTENDED FORM (Acceptable) with # of previous marriages



CET-F

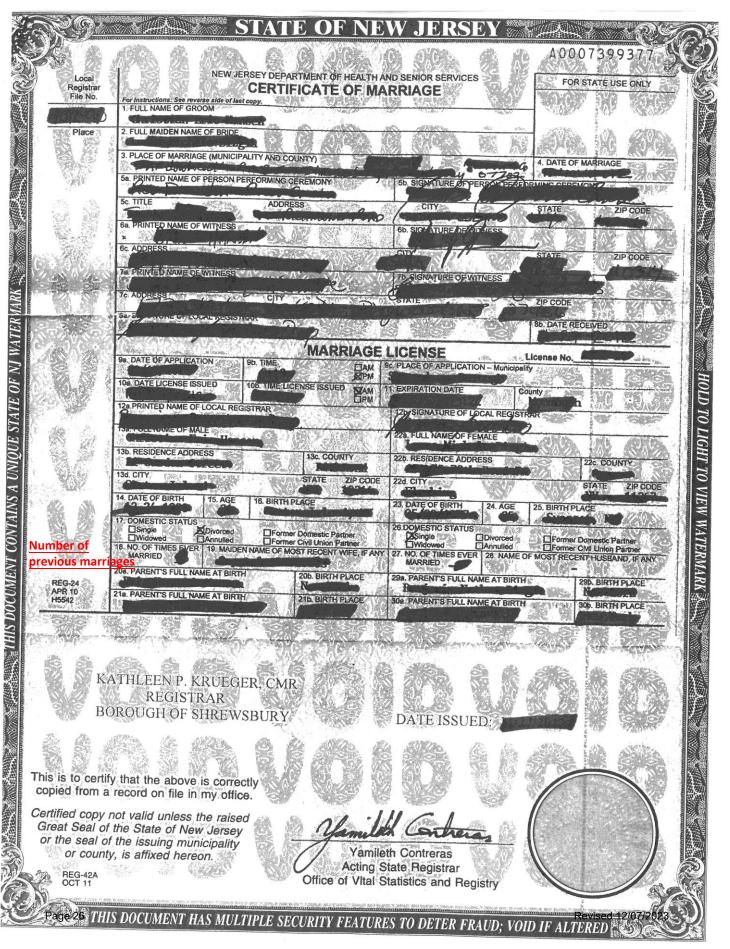
Acceptable Form



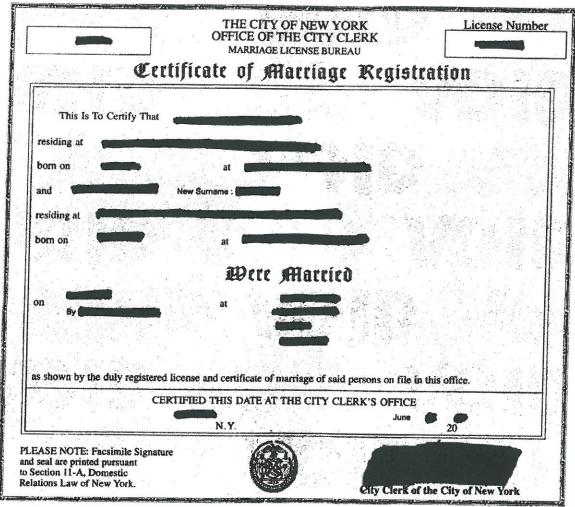


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ACCEPTABLE (New Jersey)



SHORT FORM (Not acceptable)



CET-F

Revised 12/07/2023



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