



## Metropolitan Tribunal—Archdiocese of Hartford

467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002 (860)-541-6491

# Petitioner Information Form

Dear Petitioner,

As you begin preparing the **Petitioner Information Form**, I would like to remind you that the purpose of this application is to formally 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** 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. If left incomplete the application will be returned.
- 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. When printing out this packet, print 1-sided only. The back of each page must be blank.

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.**

Very Reverend George S. Mukuka, J.C.L.  
Judicial Vicar

# Section 1

## Petitioner (you)

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION IN BLACK

Name		Middle Name	
Current Last Name		Family Name	
Address		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
City	County	State	ZIP
Email:		Occupation:	
<b>Please indicate how you may be contacted about your case in addition to regular mail:</b>			
Home Telephone	(      )		
Cellular Telephone	(      )		
Work Telephone	(      ) ext.		
You authorize us to leave a message regarding your case at: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone			

### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Place of Birth: City	
State or Province	Country
<b>Before</b> the marriage in question, were you ever baptized?	
If yes, in which church or denomination were you baptized?	
What was the date of your baptism? (mm/dd/yyyy)	
If exact baptism date is not yet available, please supply the year:	
Church or parish of baptism	
City	
State or Province	Country
What was your religion or denomination at the time of the wedding?	
What religion or denomination do you <b>now</b> observe or practice?	
Current parish or congregation	
City	
State or Province	Country
Is there any Eastern Rite (Catholic or Orthodox) affiliation in your family background (e.g., Byzantine, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Maronite, Armenian, Greek, Syrian or other)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, which?	

## Respondent *(the former spouse to the marriage)*

Title	First Name	Middle Name		
Current Last Name		Family Name		
Street Address				<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
City	County	State	ZIP	
Telephone (      )	Country	Are you in contact with the Respondent at this time? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Email		Respondent's Occupation		

**⊗ IMPORTANT NOTE: You MUST provide the complete current mailing address for the Respondent. 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.**

Respondent's Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)		
Place of Birth: City	State or Province	Country
Before marrying you, was the Respondent ever baptized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, in which church or denomination was the Respondent baptized?		
What was the date of the Respondent's baptism? (mm/dd/yyyy)		
If exact baptism date not available, please supply the year:		
Church or parish of baptism		
City		
State or Province	Country	
What was the Respondent's religion or denomination at the time of the wedding?		
What religion or denomination does the Respondent now observe or practice?		
Current parish or congregation		
City		
State or Province	Country	
Is there any Eastern Rite (Catholic or Orthodox) affiliation in your family background (e.g., Byzantine, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Maronite, Armenian, Greek, Syrian or other)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No      If yes, which?		

# Courtship & Wedding

Briefly, when and how did you and the Respondent meet? (Date ) Circumstances

How long was your courtship before you decided to marry?

Was there a formal engagement period prior to the wedding?  Yes  No  
 If yes, Date of Engagement Length of Engagement

Did you and the Respondent live together (cohabit) prior to the wedding?  Yes  No  
 If yes, how long did you live together before marriage?  
 If yes, did this have any effect on your decision to marry?  Yes  No If yes, please explain:

Was there a pregnancy or suspicion of a pregnancy prior to this wedding?  Yes  No  
 If yes, did this have any effect on your decision to marry? Please explain.

Did you and the Respondent enter into a pre-nuptial agreement?  Yes  No  
 If yes, please attach a copy of the agreement.

Exact date of the wedding in question (mm/dd/yyyy)

The marriage was performed / witnessed by a  Yes  No

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? County State or Province  
 If appropriate, Country

If a civil marriage preceded the church wedding, Date of convalidation or "blessing" (mm/dd/yyyy) **11/28/1998**

Name of church or parish

City State ZIP

Country

Name of officiant

Why did you have your marriage convalidated at that time?

Was your marriage to the Respondent **your** first marriage?  Yes  No  
 Was the Respondent married to anyone **before** you?  Yes  No  
 \*\*\*Did you ever petition for an annulment for this marriage?  Yes  No 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

If you were married at any time before or after marrying the Respondent, complete the following for each and every marriage:

<b>Marriage #</b>	<b>Name of Your Spouse</b>	<b>Date (mm/dd/yyyy) and Place of Wedding (City, State, Country) and Type of Ceremony: Civil or Religious</b>	<b>Was this the 1st marriage for your spouse?</b>	<b>If applicable, Date and Place of this Spouse's Death</b>	<b>Was this Marriage Declared Null by the Catholic Church?</b>
1			Yes If NO, list # of prior marriages:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Tribunal location, case # or date:
2			Yes If NO, list # of prior marriages:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Tribunal location, case # or date:
3			Yes If NO, list # of prior marriages:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Tribunal location, case # or date:

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

## (Respondent's)

If the Respondent was married at any time before or after marrying you, complete the following for each and every marriage:

<b>Marriage #</b>	<b>Name of their Spouse</b>	<b>Date (mm/dd/yyyy) and Place of Wedding (City, State, Country)</b>	<b>Was this the first marriage for their spouse?</b>	<b>If applicable, Date and Place of this Spouse's Death</b>	<b>Was this Marriage Declared Null by the Catholic Church?</b>
1			Yes If NO, list # of prior marriages:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Tribunal location, case # or date, if known:
2			Yes If NO, list # of prior marriages:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Tribunal location, case # or date, if known:
3			Yes If NO, list # of prior marriages:		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Tribunal location, case # or date, if known:

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

# Separation & Divorce

Approximately how long were you married to the Respondent before the final separation?	
Number of separations during the marriage:	Approximate date of the first separation
What brought about the <b>first</b> separation (briefly)?	
Any other separations (briefly)?	
What brought about the <b>final</b> separation (briefly)?	
Date of final separation — month _____ year _____	

Date of the civil divorce — month _____ day _____ year _____	On what grounds was the suit for divorce/annulment brought?
Was it a <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce or <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Annulment	
County _____ (or, if applicable, country)	State _____
Name of Court which granted the divorce/annulment _____	
Who applied for the divorce/annulment: <input type="checkbox"/> I did <input type="checkbox"/> The Respondent did	

# Children

How many children were born during your marriage to the Respondent? _____
_____
_____
If there were no children born during the marriage, why not?   
How many children did you adopt during your marriage to the Respondent? 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 children? Has the Respondent been fulfilling the obligations of visitation/custody of the children?  Are you obligated to pay child and/or spousal support assessed by the civil courts? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Are these being met? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Is the Respondent obligated to pay child and/or spousal support assessed by the civil courts? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Are these being met? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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?			
<b>If you are remarried or engaged:</b> Full Name of your current or intended spouse:			
Title:	First Name:	Middle:	Last Name:
Family name			<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Street Address			
City	State	ZIP	Country
Religion of current or intended spouse:		Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):	
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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is this your only marriage since your marriage to the Respondent? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Was your current or intended spouse ever married before (in either a civil or religious ceremony)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>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.</b>			

## 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 marriage in question:			
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
Has this person ever been known by another name (for example, a maiden name, an alias, a former name):			
If yes, please list all known aliases or family / former names:			
<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>Date(s) when name was used:</i>
When was your last contact with the Respondent <input type="checkbox"/> in person <input type="checkbox"/> by phone <input type="checkbox"/> by mail/e-mail			
Last known address of the Respondent:			
Street			
City		State	ZIP
If appropriate, country		Telephone	Email
When was the last date you knew the Respondent to be at the above address?			
Last known telephone number (      ) <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Cell			
Last known employment: company or employer			
Street Address			
City		State	ZIP
If you had children, please explain why one of these could not provide you with current contact information for the Respondent:			
Addresses of relatives of the Respondent who could be contacted to forward correspondence:			
<b>Please list in detail what efforts you have made to locate the Respondent's current address:</b>			
• Cities/Towns for which you looked in telephone books (available at libraries) or called Directory Assistance:			
Date last checked			
• Names and contact information for Attorneys, investigators or other professionals you contacted for help:			
• Names and contact information for mutual friends, in-laws, former neighbors, co-workers, etc., you contacted:			
• On-line search engines & paid services you used to try to locate the Respondent (give web addresses, print and attach your results)			
• Other efforts you made, and when			



## 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

1. When and how did you and the Respondent meet?
2. Briefly, what else was happening in your life at the time you met the Respondent? (Give details)
3. Briefly, what else was happening in the Respondent's life at the time you met? (Give details)
4. Who brought up the topic of marriage, and under what circumstances? (Explain the circumstances)

5. Did anything specific, or anything unusual, occur that prompted your decision to marry?  Yes  No  
(If YES, please explain)

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

7. How did the engagement occur?

8. 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:

9. Was there any force used or fear instilled (internal or external) to marry the Respondent? For the Respondent to marry you?  Yes  No (If YES, please explain)

### **Your Concept of Marriage Itself**

10. 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?  Yes  No Please explain your answer.

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

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

13. What was the Respondent's experience?

14. Do you believe that you and the Respondent shared the same notion of marriage at the time of the wedding?

Yes  No

Please explain your answer:

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

15. Marriage Until Death Do Us Part" means...

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

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

Please explain your answer:

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

Yes  No

(If YES, please explain)

19. 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)?  Yes  No  
Please explain.

20. Did you make a plan regarding the delaying of children through the use of birth control or some form of sterilization?  Yes  No  
If so, what was the plan? Was it carried out? Who used birth control and for how long? Who had the sterilization?

21. Leading up to the wedding, was either of you sexually active with someone else?  Yes  No  
(If YES, please explain):

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

23. If yes, by which spouse, or both?

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

24. What was the act?

25. When did the first act of infidelity occur?

26. Was infidelity a continuing problem?  Yes  No If YES, please elaborate.

27. 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

28. Please explain briefly what problems, issues, or factors you believe caused this marriage to fail, and when each first appeared:
29. 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:
30. What would the Respondent say was **your** role in the problems and breakdown of the marriage?
31. What was the Respondent's role?
32. When did you stop living together as husband and wife? (What year?)
33. What led up to the final separation?
34. Did you discover, after the wedding, something relevant to the marriage that had been hidden or not disclosed before the wedding?  Yes  No If yes, please explain:
35. Did you marry for a reason other than marriage itself (for example, a pregnancy, a green card, etc.)? Did the Respondent?  Yes  No If yes, please explain:
36. 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?  Yes  No If yes, please explain:

# Preparing Your Petition

**\*PLEASE NOTE: THESE 3 PAGES WILL BE MAILED TO YOUR FORMER SPOUSE TO DETERMINE HIS/HER AGREEMENT WITH THE GROUNDS AND HIS/HER DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CASE.**

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:

- 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 exclusivity."
- 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 always 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.
- 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." 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 **you or the Respondent desired that quality more than marriage itself**, 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.**

[Please be advised that the following are NOT grounds for invalidity: 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).]

## **ATTENTION!!**

***The next page is the most important page in this packet.***

***You must fill it out completely. If not, all will be returned!***

***Be sure to include:***

- 1) Reason for invalidity (box in the middle of the page)***
- 2) Names of at least 2 witnesses (box below the above)***
- 3) Signature and date (at the bottom of the page)***

# Petition

<b>PETITIONER</b> Your full name (Family name also, if applicable)	<b>RESPONDENT</b> Full name of spouse to this marriage (Family Name)
Address (street, city, state, zip)	City of Residence (Respondent)
<p><b>I hereby request that the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Hartford accept this petition to pronounce, according to the Canon Law of the Catholic Church, that the marriage between the spouses named above was not valid.</b></p> <p>The marriage (convalidation) took place on the following date and at the following place:</p>	
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	City, State, and Country
(Arch)diocese	Church Name and Address
<p>In making this petition, I contend that the marriage was invalid for the reason(s) contained in my application and as summarized below.</p> <p>(You <b>MUST</b> 1) include a very <b>brief explanation</b> in the <b>box below</b> of why you chose the ground(s)                  2) <b>indicate</b> the <b>party</b> on which the ground(s) you allege apply: yourself, your former spouse or both)</p> <div style="text-align: center; padding: 20px 0;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: #ccc; opacity: 0.5;">IF LEFT BLANK APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED</p> </div>	
<p><b>WITNESSES:</b> I name the following witnesses who are knowledgeable about the above ground(s) and who are willing to appear and offer sworn testimony: (This <b>MUST</b> be completed.)</p>	
1	2
3	4



\_\_\_\_\_

**Petitioner Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Respondent Signature (ONLY if respondent consents to grounds)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

**For Tribunal Use:**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Date Accepted by Judicial Vicar \_\_\_\_\_

Very Reverend George S. Mukuka, J.C.L.  
 Judicial Vicar



## Section 4

### Witnesses

It is absolutely necessary to provide the names and complete addresses of several 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. Please contact your 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.

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.**

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

<b>1</b>	Title:	First Name:	Middle:	Last Name:
Street Address				
City:		State:	Zip:	Country:
Telephone (     )		<b>cell preferred</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	How long has this person known you?
Relationship to you				
Relationship to the Respondent				
Did this person know both you and the Respondent at the time of the marriage?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
What will this person be able to tell the Tribunal, in general terms?				
Did this person agree to be a witness and to testify at the Tribunal Office?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>2</b>	Title:	First Name:	Middle:	Last Name:
Street Address				
City:		State:	Zip:	Country:
Telephone (     )		<b>cell preferred</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	How long has this person known you?
Relationship to you				
Relationship to the Respondent				
Did this person know both you and the Respondent at the time of the marriage?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
What will this person be able to tell the Tribunal, in general terms?				
Did this person agree to be a witness and to testify at the Tribunal Office?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

## Witnesses (continued)

<b>3</b>	Title:	First Name:	Middle:	Last Name:
Street Address				
City:		State:	Zip:	Country:
Telephone ( )		<b>cell preferred</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	How long has this person known you?
Relationship to you Relationship to the Respondent				
Did this person know both you and the Respondent at the time of the marriage? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
What will this person be able to tell the Tribunal, in general terms?				
Did this person agree to be a witness and to testify at the Tribunal Office? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				

<b>4</b>	Title:	First Name:	Middle:	Last Name:
Street Address				
City:		State:	Zip :	Country:
Telephone ( )		<b>cell preferred</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	How long has this person known you?
Relationship to you Relationship to the Respondent				
Did this person know both you and the Respondent at the time of the marriage? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
What will this person be able to tell the Tribunal, in general terms?				
Did this person agree to be a witness and to testify at the Tribunal Office? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				

<b>5</b>	Title:	First Name:	Middle:	Last Name:
Street Address				
City:		State:	Zip:	Country:
Telephone ( )		<b>cell preferred</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	How long has this person known you?
Relationship to you Relationship to the Respondent				
Did this person know both you and the Respondent at the time of the marriage? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
What will this person be able to tell the Tribunal, in general terms?				
Did this person agree to be a witness and to testify at the Tribunal Office? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				

## 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, Psychiatrist, or Clinical Social Worker?  Yes  No

Did you see a Medical Doctor or other health professional (about issues related to this marriage) within the past 5 years?  
 Yes  No

If yes to any of the above, would you be willing to sign a Release from Confidentiality Form to allow that person to offer testimony that is relevant to your case (if the Tribunal considers it necessary and helpful to the case)?

**PLEASE NOTE THAT IF THE RESPONDENT WAS SEEN WITH YOU OR INDIVIDUALLY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE RESPONDENT TO SIGN A RELEASE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR A PROFESSIONAL WITNESS TO OFFER TESTIMONY.**

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 confirm that I have read the PETITION on page 16.

I confirm that the box in the middle of the PETITION contains canonical grounds for nullity as listed on pgs. 14-15.

I confirm the Petitioner has signed and dated the PETITION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL – ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD  
467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002  
(860) 541-6491

**POLICY STATEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, 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 Application 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 (pg. 16); 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 cannot set (even tentatively) a date 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 no assurance of the outcome or the time it will take to complete the process can be given.
- I understand that if there is a judgment granting the declaration of nullity, it may contain a clause delaying or restricting permission to remarry in the Church.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Checklist

The following are REQUIRED in order to submit your case. If any of the following are missing, your application will be returned.

- ① Completed Petitioner's Information Form (no blank spaces) in black or blue ink
- ② Signed and Dated Policy Statement with original signature
- ③ Signed and Dated Application Form with original signature

The following Documents:

- ④ A. Original updated Marriage Certificate (Church) for the marriage in question
- B. Original Marriage License and/or Certificate (State) for the marriage in question indication officiant and type of ceremony (religious or civil)
- ⑤ Divorce and/or Civil Annulment Decree for the marriage in question
- ⑥ Original updated Baptismal Certificate of Petitioner (if applicable). A copy **WILL NOT** be accepted.

Please make and retain a copy of all forms and documents.