

TRIBUNAL

Diocese of Bridgeport



R

Case Name:

Case No.:

Please Complete and Return By:

RESPONDENT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Tribunal of the Diocese of Bridgeport

1 Waterview Drive, Suite 103A

Shelton, CT 06484

203 - 416 - 1424

www.dob-tribunal.com

tribunal@diobpt.org

Dear Respondent,

Your former spouse initiated a process with the Diocese of Bridgeport to clarify the status of your former marriage in the light of the Catholic Church's teaching and laws on marriage. We hope that this process will be a time of healing and spiritual growth. The Church believes that marriage is indissoluble. The law of the Church states (Canon 1055): "The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring." This teaching forms the basis of the Tribunal's investigation.

Regrettably, divorce is a reality of our times. Divorce is always difficult, both for the parties and for any children involved, and it can affect a person's standing regarding the sacramental life of the Church. Catholics and non-Catholics alike have the right to ask the officials of the Church to investigate the possibility of the nullity of their marriage.

The Tribunal is composed of specially trained clergy and lay persons appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport who will make a determination regarding your marital status. A declaration of nullity may be granted only if it can be shown that at the time of the wedding, at least one of the parties lacked the necessary intention or lacked the requisite capacity to establish the matrimonial bond as understood by the Catholic Church.

If nullity is declared, both parties would be free to attempt marriage again in the Catholic Church, if they choose to do so (barring any prohibitions or cautions, such as the need for counseling). A declaration of nullity does not deny that a real relationship existed, nor does it imply that the relationship was entered into with ill will or moral fault. This process does not seek to place blame or establish a guilty party: it is a search for the truth. It does not affect the legitimacy of any children of the marriage and has no consequences whatsoever in civil or secular law.

The following pages of this form are designed to collect information about your marriage with your former spouse. Your kind cooperation is much appreciated. Should you prefer to give your statements in person, rather than using this form, please call the Tribunal at 203-416-1424 to arrange an appointment with a judge. Once again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Arthur C. Mollenhauer, J.C.L.
Judicial Vicar

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

First Name: Middle Name: Last Name:

Maiden Name (if a woman): Email: (for Tribunal use)

Current Home Address:

Preferred Phone No. (for Tribunal to call) Home Cell Work

Date of Birth: Place of Birth:

Number of Siblings: Your Place in the Birth Order:

Date of Baptism: (if applicable) Religion at Baptism: (if applicable)

Church of Baptism: (full address is req'd)

Religion at Wedding: Current Religion:

Your Primary Language: Education Level at Time of Wedding:

Occupation at the Time of Wedding:

Counting ALL religious and civil ceremonies: No. of Marriages Before This One: No. of Marriages After This One:

Are You Currently Engaged to be Married? YES NO

Are You Currently Enrolled in RCIA? YES NO

Is Your (Intended) Spouse Enrolled in RCIA? YES NO

Have you ever been diagnosed / treated by psychologist or psychiatrist? Please explain:

PREVIOUS AND SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGES (CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS)

RESPONDENT

MARRIAGE 1

1. To Whom: Prior to this union? Date:

Place of Ceremony:

How was Terminated: When:

Was it Annulled? Where and When:

MARRIAGE 2

2. To Whom: Prior to this union? Date:

Place of Ceremony:

How was Terminated: When:

Was it Annulled? Where and When:

MARRIAGE 3

3. To Whom: Prior to this union? Date:

Place of Ceremony:

How was Terminated: When:

Was it Annulled? Where and When:

MARRIAGE 4

4. To Whom: Prior to this union? Date:

Place of Ceremony:

How was Terminated: When:

Was it Annulled? Where and When:

MARRIAGE 5

3. To Whom: Prior to this union? Date:

Place of Ceremony:

How was Terminated: When:

Was it Annulled? Where and When:

WITNESS NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WITNESS 1:

Full Name: Title: Relationship:

Address:

Phone: Email: Language:

WITNESS 2:

Full Name: Title: Relationship:

Address:

Phone: Email: Language:

WITNESS 3:

Full Name: Title: Relationship:

Address:

Phone: Email: Language:

WITNESS 4:

Full Name: Title: Relationship:

Address:

Phone: Email: Language:

WITNESS 5:

Full Name: Title: Relationship:

Address:

Phone: Email: Language:

WITNESS 6:

Full Name: Title: Relationship:

Address:

Phone: Email: Language:

PART II

ATTITUDES TOWARDS MARRIAGE

The following statements are designed to help the Tribunal gain a better understanding of your and the Petitioner's abilities, attitudes and beliefs at the time of your wedding. Please review each of the statements and check the boxes that apply to you and/or the Petitioner. These items refer to PRINCIPAL or MAJOR traits that you and the Petitioner brought into the marriage. In any given section, you may check one box, several boxes or no box. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers.

Section A: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		was not mature enough to understand what a commitment entailed;
		was trying to get away from something unpleasant in our lives
		believed we were committed to the marriage because of dating for so long
		had serious doubts about whether this was a good decision;
		did not realistically consider whether this was a good decision;
		had little or no dating experience;
		believed that because we were sexually active with each other, marriage was inevitable;
		ignored the significant opposition of family and/or friends;
		had no example of a stable marriage while growing up.

Section B: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		already had personal or family involvement with physical abuse, sexual abuse, alcohol or drug abuse;
		had received or needed to receive counseling for a serious psychological disorder;
		was unable to establish stability in a job, education, lifestyle or a relationship due to personality problems;
		had a history of violence or other antisocial behavior;
		could not accept personal responsibility for actions committed;
		already struggled with what would later be seen as an addiction (gambling, controlled substance, etc.);
		expressed, experienced or denied difficulties with sexual orientation.

Section C: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		did not want to be married to the other person but went through the ceremony for some personal reason;
		did not want to establish a marital partnership;
		other things were more important than the spouse, e.g.: (List):

Section C: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

		did not intend to assume any permanent responsibilities toward the other person;
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Section D: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		never intended to have children (although this may not have been discovered until after the wedding);
		would not have sexual relations unless birth control was used;
		intended to delay, limit or exclude children for some personal reason;
		never intended to take any responsibility for the upbringing of children.

Section E: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		believed that sexual infidelity was acceptable for a reason;
		believed that one could have sexual relations outside of the marriage;
		was sexually unfaithful shortly before or shortly after the wedding;
		believed that sexual relations outside marriage were acceptable as long as there was no emotional attachment;

Section E: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

		never intended to have an exclusive, faithful relationship
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Section F: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		was convinced that divorce was acceptable if the marriage would prove to be unsuccessful and unhappy.

Section G: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		intended to be married only if some condition or expectation would be fulfilled. Please specify the condition: (List)
		intended to be married only as long as there was no infidelity

Section H: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		believed that because of some external pressure or some other circumstance, marriage was the only option;
		believed that because of parental insistence to marry, marriage was the only alternative;
		wanted to back out of the ceremony but could not do so;
		was afraid NOT to get married, because of some external factor or pressure.

Section I: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		intended to marry only a person with a certain quality. Please name the quality: (List)
		mistakenly believed that the other party possessed the required quality; please name that quality.
		would not have married if the truth about the quality [its presence or absence] were known.

Section J: At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:

YOU	PETITIONER	
		purposely deceived the other person about a significant fact that is important in marriage; please name that fact.
		deceived the other person into marrying;
		felt deceived into getting married;
		would not have married if the truth were known.

Section K: Grounds for Nullity. Do you think this marriage was invalid from the very beginning? Why?

If you marked any of the questions in the above questionnaire, please explain them individually here marking section letter only (e.g. Section "A:"). Take as much space as needed. **PLEASE TYPE.**

YOUR NAME (PRINT): _____

YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

Date _____

Place (Name of city/town/church)_____

Authentication: (PRINT NAME, then SIGN)

_____ Date _____

Signature of Priest, Deacon, Ecclesiastical Notary, or Notary Public

We request that you have your signature witnessed by a Catholic Priest, Deacon, Ecclesiastical Notary or Notary Public. All testimony given by the Petitioner and/or Respondent, as well as their witnesses, can be seen by the Petitioner, Respondent, and the Tribunal officials. This right is considered "the right of defense" in case one would like to give additional testimony or a rebuttal. If, because of the sensitivity of the information given, the person would like the information to be kept confidential, he/she can give reasons in writing why he/she wishes this information to be kept confidential. The final decision in this matter will remain with the presiding Judge (Canon 1598). Ecclesiastical matrimonial processes have no effect on matters decided in the civil sphere or upon the status of any children born to the parties. The Respondent who signs this document promises and agrees to institute no litigation before any civil legal jurisdiction or for any cause related to the Tribunal process, since this matter pertains to the governance of the Catholic Church and is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Tribunal.

**THE ACTS OF THIS ECCLESIASTICAL PROCESS ARE A RELIGIOUS MATTER
AND HAVE NO EFFECTS IN CIVIL LAW.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Please return the form to:

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1 Waterview Drive, Suite 103A
Shelton, CT 06484