

SPONSOR'S CHECK LIST

The sponsor is the Petitioner's pastor (or his pastoral associate) who assists the Petitioner with this application and throughout the annulment process. (This is not to be confused with the Procurator/Advocate who may represent the Petitioner in Court.)

THE SPONSOR FOR THE PETITIONER: _____

ADVOCATE OF THE PETITIONER: _____

PARISH OF THE SPONSOR: _____

SPONSOR: BEFORE you help the Petitioner complete this Application and Petition, please make sure the following has been reviewed with him/her:

- _____ 1. Make sure the Petitioner reads our pamphlet entitled "THE ANNULMENT OF A MARRIAGE IN THE DIOCESE OF SHREVEPORT" and the CATHOLIC UPDATE entitled "*Why the Church is Granting More Annulments.*" (Both answer many questions and outline the process for the Petitioner.)
- _____ 2. Review the ENTIRE Application and Petition with the Petitioner, step by step, reminding the Petitioner of the importance of answering each and every question as completely and legibly as possible.
- _____ 3. Explain to the Petitioner that NO CASE will begin without a completed Application and Petition submitted with ALL documents and the filing fee.
- _____ 4. Encourage the Petitioner to take the necessary time to develop a complete and thorough "Marriage History." Emphasize its importance for the case.
- _____ 5. At all times, offer support and encouragement, reminding the Petitioner of the Church's concern and of the reconciliatory nature of this process.
- _____ 6. Set up a time when the two of you can review the completed application.

Before FORWARDING this completed Application and Petition to the Tribunal, please read and check the following. (If any of the following cannot be provided, the Sponsor is kindly requested to explain ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.)

- _____ 1. Review the entire Application and Petition with the Petitioner, making sure that every blank has been filled in and that all addresses are complete.
- _____ 2. Complete mailing addresses for Respondent is included. (No case can be accepted without this! If difficulties, explain on the back of this page.)
- _____ 3. All documents are included.
- _____ 4. Petitioner has contacted witnesses and they have agreed to participate.
- _____ 5. Petitioner has agreed not to set wedding date until notified of the Tribunal's Final Decision.
- _____ 6. Fee sheet has been discussed and the filing fee is enclosed.
- _____ 7. Sponsor's comments about the Petitioner and his or her request for a Declaration of Nullity:

signed by sponsor:

PLEASE, DO NOT SUBMIT THIS PETITION UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY COMPLETE WITH ALL DOCUMENTS AND THE FILING FEE!

STATEMENT OF THE PETITIONER

It is my duty to provide the Tribunal of the Diocese of Shreveport with all required documents as well as a complete, current, and accurate list of all my witnesses. I agree to inform these witnesses that the Tribunal will contact them. I will make myself available to give personal testimony should this be requested by the Tribunal.

I will cooperate and respond swiftly to all requests. I will read the pamphlet entitled "THE ANNULMENT OF A MARRIAGE IN THE DIOCESE OF SHREVEPORT" and the issue of CATHOLIC UPDATE entitled "Why the Church is Granting More Annulments."

If the Tribunal finds reason to decide this case, there is no guarantee that the final determination will be favorable to me. I also understand that no guarantee can be given to me about a completion date of this annulment process.

I understand that I may not set a date for any future marriage in the Catholic Church until, and unless, an affirmative decision is given and approved by a second ecclesiastical authority. I understand that no Priest or Deacon may provide me with even a tentative date for a future marriage in the Catholic Church.

The final decision depends wholly on the merits of the case, the evidence and the exact reasons which the Church recognizes as grounds for nullity. I understand that if an affirmative decision is reached, that (a) either the Defender of the Bond or my former spouse may appeal it; and (b) stipulations against a subsequent marriage may be placed on me, pending an assessment of my readiness to live out a sacramental marriage. Either of these may delay my ability to set a date for a forthcoming marriage in the Catholic Church.

Because of the sensitive nature of the information gathered in this process and because the Tribunal wishes to promote the spirit of Christian Charity, all the information gathered in the course of this investigation is considered the exclusive property of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Shreveport. This information is never made available except as required by Church Law for inspection by the Petitioner or the Respondent or their Procurator/Advocates. The judge may curtail the availability of the information, even to the Procurator/Advocate, for special reasons that the judge may determine, to avoid harm to a party. The information is not made available to the witnesses or for any civil proceeding. By Louisiana Revised Statute 13:3734.2, all communication with the Tribunal is "privileged," which means it cannot be obtained by an legal means for use in civil or criminal court or by any administrative or legislative agency.

I understand that it is my responsibility to keep all information about my case in confidence. I am not to discuss the questions I am asked or any other information with anyone except the Tribunal personnel assigned to my case. I understand that, should I speak about the case with my witnesses, I may cause their testimony to be inadmissible by the Tribunal.

If one or more of my witnesses will not cooperate, it is my responsibility to provide the Tribunal with more names and addresses of those who are willing to testify.

I understand that my former spouse must be contacted in this matter.

I will inform the Tribunal of any future change in my name, place of address, or civil marriage status. I understand that my failure to submit or cause others to submit any required testimony or material within six months from the date I sign my formal petition will cause the case to be abated automatically. This means that I will have to start the whole process over if I wish to pursue my case.

I AGREE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE TRIBUNAL AND TO BE BOUND BY THE POLICIES IN THE ABOVE STATEMENT. I SWEAR THAT THE TESTIMONY WHICH I SUBMIT WITH THIS APPLICATION AND PETITION IS THE WHOLE TRUTH.

(THIS IS TO BE SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SPONSOR.)

Signature of the Petitioner

Date

Signature of the Sponsor

Seal of the Parish

Signature of the Advocate

FORMAL PETITION and ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL

I, _____, contracted marriage with
Petitioner (print your name)
_____, on _____, in
Respondent
_____,
city state date
A civil divorce was granted on _____
city state date
in _____
city parish/county state

I hereby request the Tribunal of the Diocese of Shreveport to investigate this marriage with a view to making a decision as to whether or not that union is valid under the laws of the Catholic Church and to take whatever steps seem necessary to effect such a judgment. I agree to accept those officials who will be asked to serve as Judges, Defender of the Bond and Procurator/Advocate. I believe that my marriage was not what the Catholic Church considers a valid, sacramental union for the following reason(s), *WHICH EXISTED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE MARRIAGE*:

[From the list, check the most appropriate grounds (no more than three.)]

1. The deliberate exclusion of marriage itself, for example, going through with a wedding but not truly seeking marriage. (1101.2)
_____ by Petitioner _____ by Respondent _____ by both
2. The firm intention to exclude children from the union. (1101.2)
_____ by Petitioner _____ by Respondent _____ by both
3. A deliberate act of the will to exclude fidelity in the marriage. (1101.2)
_____ by Petitioner _____ by Respondent _____ by both
4. The outright rejection of the permanency of marriage. (1101.2)
_____ by Petitioner _____ by Respondent _____ by both
5. Consent to marriage was given because of force, fear, or pressure. (1103)
_____ by Petitioner _____ by Respondent _____ by both
6. Serious problems (for example, emotional, mental, immaturity, alcoholism, addiction), even temporary, preventing rational judgments concerning matrimonial rights and duties. (1095.1.2)
_____ by Petitioner _____ by Respondent _____ by both
7. Psychological problems rendering the spouse or spouses incapable of assuming the essential obligations of marriage. (1095.3)
_____ by Petitioner _____ by Respondent _____ by both
8. Serious error regarding the quality of the spouse. (1097.2)
_____ by Petitioner _____ by Respondent _____ by both
9. Deceit concerning some quality, perpetrated to obtain consent, which seriously disturbs the partnership of life. (1098)
_____ by Petitioner _____ by Respondent _____ by both
10. Other ... (please explain on the back of this page)

Signature of the Petitioner

Date

DATA SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Please type or print clearly. It is important that each item have a response. If a question is not applicable to your situation, write "NA." If you do not know an answer, write "unknown." If items are left blank, the Application for may be returned to you for completion.

PETITIONER
(you)

RESPONDENT
(former spouse)

_____PRESENT LAST NAME_____	
_____MAIDEN NAME_____	
_____FIRST NAME_____	
_____MIDDLE NAME_____	
_____STREET ADDRESS_____	
_____CITY_____	
_____STATE/ZIP_____	
_____home_____	_____work_____
_____TELEPHONE_____	
_____home_____	_____work_____
_____YEARS OF EDUCATION_____	
_____PRESENT OCCUPATION_____	
_____OCCUPATION AT TIME OF MARRIAGE_____	
_____DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH_____	
_____RELIGION OF BAPTISM_____	
_____DATE OF BAPTISM_____	
_____CHURCH OF BAPTISM_____	
_____RELIGION PROFESSED AT TIME OF WEDDING_____	
_____PRESENT RELIGION_____	
_____ []DECEASED FATHER'S NAME_____ []DECEASED	
_____ []DECEASED MOTHER'S NAME_____ []DECEASED	
_____STREET ADDRESS_____	
_____CITY/STATE/ZIP_____	
() _____ TELEPHONE () _____	

THE MARRIAGE BEING STUDIED

1. Date and Place of Wedding _____
Date on Civil Marriage Certificate city state

2. By a ☐ Catholic Priest ☐ Minister ☐ Justice of the Peace in _____
Name of Church, Synagogue, Courthouse, Home, Other

CONVALIDATION If the wedding was NOT a Catholic Ceremony, was it ever validated ("blessed") in the Catholic Church? ☐ Yes ☐ No. If YES, date: _____

Celebrant: _____ Church: _____
Name of priest or deacon name address city state

Age at the time of Convalidation: I was _____; former spouse _____

3. When did you first meet? _____ When did steady dating begin? _____
Approximate date Approximate date

4. Length of Courtship _____ Length of Engagement _____
Prior to decision to marry After Decision to Marry

5. Ages at time of wedding: I was _____; former spouse _____

6. This was my first marriage ☐ Yes ☐ No; If NO, ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE, please list ALL your previous marriages with the name and religion of spouse, wedding date, place, when and how each marriage ended. (If any of your former spouses had been married before, place an asterisk (*) to the left of their name(s).)

7. This was my former spouse's first marriage ☐ YES ☐ NO: If NO, ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE, please list ALL previous marriages with the name and religion of spouse, wedding date, place, when and how each marriage ended. (If any of his/her former spouses had been married before, place an asterisk (*) to the left of their name(s).)

8. Were the two of you related by blood or legally (in-laws, adoption)? ☐ YES ☐ NO
 If "YES", please explain:

9. Was there a pre-marital pregnancy involved? ☐ YES ☐ NO

10. Did you "live together" before marriage? ☐ YES ☐ NO

11. Did sexual intercourse begin before marriage? ☐ YES ☐ NO

CHILDREN

1. How many children were born/conceived of this marriage? _____

2. How many children were adopted in this marriage? _____

3. List the names of each child and dates of birth/adoption ("DOB/A):

NAMES OF CHILDREN	DOB/A	NAMES OF CHILDREN	DOB/A
1.		5.	
2.		6.	
3.		7.	
4.		8.	

4. Who has principal custody now? ☐ I do; ☐ Respondent; ☐ children are grown:
☐ Joint; ☐ Other _____

SEPARATIONS

1. Were there any separations before the divorce? ☐ YES ☐ NO How many? _____
2. The last time you lived under the same roof together: _____
Approximate date
3. We actually lived together for a total of _____ months/years after the wedding.

DIVORCE

1. Date and Place of Divorce _____
Date court parish/county state
2. The divorce was obtained by ☐ me ☐ former spouse
3. The grounds for civil divorce _____

SINCE THE DIVORCE

1. Have you remarried? ☐ YES ☐ NO How many times? _____

PLEASE NOTE: The Tribunal must investigate each marriage

2. Your present marital status? ☐ Single ☐ Engaged ☐ Remarried

If you are engaged or remarried, was your intended or present spouse previously married?

☐ YES ☐ NO *If YES, How many times?* _____

NOTE: If your intended or present spouse has been married before, his/her previous marriage(s) must also be investigated by the Tribunal to determine whether he/she is free to marry you in the Catholic Church.

OTHER

1. Have you ever presented a marriage case to a Church Tribunal? ☐ NO ☐ YES
If "YES": The Tribunal of _____ Prot. No. _____
Name of Diocese State
2. Are you participating in instructions (RCIA) to enter the Catholic Church? ☐ YES ☐ NO
At which parish: _____ When do you hope to be received into the Church? _____
3. Is your significant other participating in instructions (RCIA) to enter into the Catholic Church? ☐ YES ☐ NO
At which parish: _____ When do you hope to be received into the church? _____
4. Were either you or your former spouse a Godparent at the other's Baptism? ☐ YES ☐ NO
5. Did either of you administer Baptism to the other? ☐ YES ☐ NO
6. If you are Catholic, did you or your former spouse ever leave the Catholic Church by a formal act or officially join another church? ☐ YES ☐ NO If YES, when, where, why, and how long? _____

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FORMER SPOUSE, BEFORE THE MARRIAGE

*In this section, check the box to indicate a “TRUE” statement about yourself (“P” which stands for ‘Petitioner’) and/or about your former spouse (“R” which stands for ‘Respondent’), a statement which you knew to be true BEFORE YOU WERE MARRIED. Do not check a statement as true based solely on suspicion. **MARK IT ONLY IF IT HAS SOLID FOUNDATION IN FACT.***

Remember, this section deals with you and your former spouse BEFORE your marriage. If a certain fact was only discovered AFTER the wedding, then check P or R, and check “[] DATW” which stands for “Discovered After The Wedding.”

1. [] P or [] R had an unhappy home life as a child. [] DATW
2. [] P or [] R did not get along with brothers and sisters. [] DATW
3. [] P or [] R did not get along at all with one or both parents. [] DATW
4. [] P or [] R was an unpopular person in school. [] DATW
5. [] P or [] R was an alcoholic. [] DATW
6. [] P or [] R has one or both parents who are alcoholics. [] DATW
7. [] P or [] R is a controlled substance abuser. [] DATW
8. [] P or [] R have one or both parents who were controlled substance abusers. [] DATW
9. [] P or [] R was sexually abused as a child. [] DATW
10. [] P or [] R was physically abused as a child. [] DATW
11. [] P or [] R was “date-raped” by the other spouse. [] DATW
12. [] P or [] R was a war veteran. [] DATW
13. [] P or [] R was arrested. [] DATW
14. [] P or [] R was considered a rebel. [] DATW
15. [] P or [] R could not keep a job or changed college majors frequently. [] DATW
16. [] P or [] R attempted or threatened suicide. [] DATW
17. [] P or [] R contracted a sexually transmitted disease. [] DATW
18. [] P or [] R had serious health or emotional problems before marriage. [] DATW
19. [] P or [] R had one or both parents who had emotional problems. [] DATW
20. [] P or [] R was “unfaithful” during our courtship or engagement. [] DATW
21. [] P or [] R did not intend to be sexually faithful during the marriage. [] DATW
22. [] P or [] R did not agree on or did not want to discuss our roles as husband and wife. [] DATW
23. [] P or [] R did not agree on or did not want to discuss our career plans. [] DATW
24. [] P or [] R had a career or career goal which was a cause of our divorce. [] DATW
25. [] P or [] R attached some condition or restriction to the consent. [] DATW
26. [] P or [] R did not like the other’s friends. [] DATW
27. [] P or [] R had trouble keeping friends. [] DATW
28. [] P or [] R did not like to talk about important decisions with the other. [] DATW

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FORMER SPOUSE, BEFORE THE MARRIAGE (CONTINUED)

29. ☐ P or ☐ R wanted to change some behavior or habit the other had. ☐ DATW
30. ☐ P or ☐ R was worried about the sexual orientation of the other. ☐ DATW
31. ☐ P or ☐ R had previously dated less than two other persons. ☐ DATW
32. ☐ P or ☐ R could not hold a sensible conversation with others. ☐ DATW
33. ☐ P or ☐ R lacked self-esteem. ☐ DATW
34. ☐ P or ☐ R was extremely passive or hyperactive. ☐ DATW
35. ☐ P or ☐ R was rarely tactful. ☐ DATW
36. ☐ P or ☐ R was unduly moody. ☐ DATW
37. ☐ P or ☐ R had no sense of humor or was overly sensitive. ☐ DATW
38. ☐ P or ☐ R was easily manipulated by other people. ☐ DATW
39. ☐ P or ☐ R had some serious defect which prevented a normal married life. ☐ DATW
40. ☐ P or ☐ R had trouble managing money or had serious financial problems. ☐ DATW
41. ☐ P or ☐ R was often unhappy or “blue.” ☐ DATW
42. ☐ P or ☐ R was a “closed book” when it came to expressing feelings. ☐ DATW
43. ☐ P or ☐ R found it difficult to say “I am sorry.” ☐ DATW
44. ☐ P or ☐ R had problems with sexual relations of some sort. ☐ DATW
45. ☐ P or ☐ R was experienced sexually with someone else. ☐ DATW
46. ☐ P or ☐ R felt that we were marrying too soon. ☐ DATW
47. ☐ P or ☐ R did not feel that the other was “the right person.” ☐ DATW
48. ☐ P or ☐ R felt that we had some outside pressure forcing us to marry. ☐ DATW
49. ☐ P or ☐ R did not agree that we would love each other no matter what happened, even if the other was unfaithful. ☐ DATW
50. ☐ P or ☐ R worried that the way the other’s family solved problems would cause problems in our marriage. ☐ DATW
51. ☐ P or ☐ R was concerned that in-laws would interfere in our marriage. ☐ DATW
52. ☐ P or ☐ R disagreed about our religious beliefs. ☐ DATW
53. ☐ P or ☐ R preferred not to have children right away, but was open to the possibility of children. ☐ DATW
54. ☐ P or ☐ R definitely did not want children and would not compromise. ☐ DATW
55. ☐ P or ☐ R did not intend to enter a permanent and life-long union. ☐ DATW
56. ☐ P or ☐ R intended to leave the marriage if we became unhappy, with the option of marrying somebody else. ☐ DATW
57. ☐ P or ☐ R if expectations or conditions were not met, intended to leave the marriage, with the option of marrying somebody else. ☐ DATW
58. ☐ P or ☐ R intended to leave the marriage with the option of marrying somebody else if the other spouse would have committed adultery. ☐ DATW

LIST OF WITNESSES

Please list AT LEAST FOUR names of persons who are willing to testify and who have knowledge of you and your former spouse before, during and after the marriage. Examples of such persons could be parents, brothers and sisters, close friends, and relatives of either spouse. (Usually children of the couple do NOT make good witnesses.) Please make an effort to include witnesses from your former spouse's side. LIST THE NAMES OF OTHER WITNESSES ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE. You must contact your witnesses before submitting their names to the Tribunal. Failure of Witnesses to respond promptly will cause delays. **PLEASE, PRINT CLEARLY WITH COMPLETE ADDRESSES.**

+++++
NAME_____NAME_____
ADDRESS_____ADDRESS_____
CITY/STATE/ZIP_____CITY/STATE/ZIP_____
TELEPHONE NUMBER_____TELEPHONE NUMBER_____
RELATIONSHIP TO YOU_____RELATIONSHIP TO YOU_____
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS PERSON?_____HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS PERSON?_____
DID THIS WITNESS AGREE TO TESTIFY?_____DID THIS PERSON AGREE TO TESTIFY?_____

+++++
NAME_____NAME_____
ADDRESS_____ADDRESS_____
CITY/STATE/ZIP_____CITY/STATE/ZIP_____
TELEPHONE NUMBER_____TELEPHONE NUMBER_____
RELATIONSHIP TO YOU_____RELATIONSHIP TO YOU_____
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS PERSON?_____HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS PERSON?_____
DID THIS WITNESS AGREE TO TESTIFY?_____DID THIS PERSON AGREE TO TESTIFY?_____

+++++
NAME_____NAME_____
ADDRESS_____ADDRESS_____
CITY/STATE/ZIP_____CITY/STATE/ZIP_____
TELEPHONE NUMBER_____TELEPHONE NUMBER_____
RELATIONSHIP TO YOU_____RELATIONSHIP TO YOU_____
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS PERSON?_____HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS PERSON?_____
DID THIS WITNESS AGREE TO TESTIFY?_____DID THIS PERSON AGREE TO TESTIFY?_____

+++++

CHARACTER WITNESSES (Non-relative, at least five year acquaintance)

NAME_____NAME_____
ADDRESS_____ADDRESS_____
CITY/STATE/ZIP_____CITY/STATE/ZIP_____
TELEPHONE NUMBER_____TELEPHONE NUMBER_____
RELATIONSHIP TO YOU_____RELATIONSHIP TO YOU_____
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS PERSON?_____HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THIS PERSON?_____
DID THIS WITNESS AGREE TO TESTIFY?_____DID THIS PERSON AGREE TO TESTIFY?_____

PROFESSIONAL WITNESSES

List the names and addresses of Professionals (Counselors, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Priests, Ministers, Attorneys) or Agencies that either you or your former spouse saw before, during or after the marriage. You may be asked to release such records to the Tribunal

[] Check here if this does not apply to your situation.

+++++

NAME _____ PROFESSION _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

DATES VISITED _____

WHICH PARTY? () me and/or () former spouse.

+++++

NAME _____ PROFESSION _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

DATES VISITED _____

WHICH PARTY? () me and/or () former spouse.

+++++

NAME _____ PROFESSION _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

DATES VISITED _____

WHICH PARTY? () me and/or () former spouse.

+++++

NAME _____ PROFESSION _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

DATES VISITED _____

WHICH PARTY? () me and/or () former spouse.

+++++

MARRIAGE HISTORY

As an initial step in our investigation of your former marriage, you are asked to develop an essay using the following as a guideline. **The Tribunal understands that the writing of this NARRATIVE may be difficult for you, but we assure you that this “Marriage History” is of utmost importance to your case and its being processed in a timely manner.**

It is important to attempt to address each area by developing a NARRATIVE in sentence and paragraph form. Be concise, but also as thorough and specific as possible. It is important to give concrete examples to support your statements. Please type or print, using one side of paper, double-space. Use as many pages as you need.

I. YOUR FAMILY BACKGROUND AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOU GREW UP

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING:

- Your home situation as a child.
- The socio-economic background of your family.
- The personalities of your parents and their relationship.
- The religion of your parents and the extent they practiced it.
- Your brothers and sisters and how well you got along with them.
- Your role in the family.
- The use of alcohol/drugs in your family.
- Any physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in the family.
- The display of emotion and affection in the family.
- How conflict was resolved.
- Any serious health problems or emotional problems or difficulties you or members of your family may have had while you were growing up.
- The divorces and separations in your immediate family.
- How well your family background prepared you for marriage.
- The psychiatric/psychological care required by you or your family members.
- How your home situation influenced the decision to marry.

II. YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

PLEASE DESCRIBE:

- The extent to which you practiced your religion
- The age you began dating and first dating experiences and the nature of your first serious relationship.
- Your involvement in serious relationships and how they were terminated.
- How your parents felt about your dating patterns.
- How the topic of sex was treated in your family.
- How you learned about sex.
- How you related to people of the opposite sex. The same sex.
- Your life goals during your adolescent period.
- The highest grade level of education you completed and why.
- Your job history between age 16 and your marriage.
- Please write about any other pertinent issues from your family or personal background that have not been addressed in the preceding statements.

III. THE FAMILY BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENT OF YOUR FORMER SPOUSE

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING:

- Your former spouse's home situation as a child and his/her parents and their personalities and relationship to one another.
- The socio-economic background of your former spouse's family.
- The religion of your former spouse's parents and the extent they practice it.
- The number of brothers and sisters your former spouse had and how well he/she got along with them.
- Your former spouse's role in the family.
- The divorces and separations in your former spouse's immediate family.

- Any problems with gambling, alcohol or drugs that your former spouse or any members of your former spouse's family may have had.
- Any physical, emotional or sexual abuse.
- The display of emotion and affection in your former spouse's family.
- How conflict was resolved.
- Any serious health problems or emotional problems or difficulties.
- Any psychiatric/psychological care ever required by your former spouse or his/her parents or siblings.
- How well your former spouse's home situation influenced the decision to marry.
- How well your former spouse's family background prepared him/her for marriage.

IV. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR FORMER SPOUSE

PLEASE DESCRIBE:

- The extent your former spouse practiced his/her religion.
- The age your former spouse began dating and his/her involvement in any other serious relationship prior to meeting you.
- How your former spouse's parents felt about his/her dating and dating patterns.
- How your former spouse related to people of the opposite sex. The same sex.
- How the topic of sex was treated in your former spouse's family.
- How your former spouse learned about sex.
- Your former spouse's goals during adolescence.
- The highest grade level of education your former spouse completed and why.
- Your former spouse's job history after age 16 and before marriage.
- Please include any other pertinent comments you would like to make about your former spouse's family or personal background before your marriage.

V. COURTSHIP

IN NARRATIVE FORM, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

- How and when you met your former spouse.
- Were either of you on the rebound from another relationship?
- How often did you date and what did you do on the dates?
- What attracted you to each other?
- At the time, what attitudes did each of you have toward premarital sex in your relationship?
- Was there a premarital sexual relationship and, if so, to what extent did it affect your relationship?
- Did you feel any pressure to maintain or continue the relationship during the courtship?
- Describe your ability to communicate with each other during the courtship?
- What did you see in this person that motivated you to choose him/her as a marriage partner?
- Who brought up the topic of marriage? How long did you know your former spouse before discussing marriage?
- At the time of your marriage, did each of you feel that you could commit yourselves to each other for the rest of your lives? Please explain.
- Were either of you involved with anyone other than your former spouse during the courtship? If yes, please explain.
- Did either of you enter this marriage with the attitude "if this doesn't work out, we can always get divorced?" Please explain.
- When you married, did you both intend the marriage to last for the rest of your lives? If no, please explain.
- Did you discuss any plans about having children? If yes, what were your plans?
- Prior to the marriage, did either place any condition on the marriage such as "I will only marry if ..." or "I will remain married to you provided that ...? If yes, please explain.
- Was there any quality about the other person that, had you been aware of it, you would never have entered the marriage? If yes, please explain.
- Was there any force or fear used by anyone, such as threats, physical harm, etc., to make either party marry? If yes, please explain.
- Were there any conflicts related to careers, future family goals, and expectations. If yes, please explain.
- What were your and your former spouse's career goals? Were they realized prior to your marriage?
- Was there ever a pregnancy involved before marriage? If yes, how did it affect the decision to marry?
- Did any other factor hasten your decision to marry?
- Were there any premarital instructions given by a priest or minister? Did you attend any Pre-Cana program? Did either occasion cause any questions or problems?
- Were there any arguments during the courtship? Over what issues? How did these conflicts affect the relationship? How were they resolved?

- Describe any emotional, sexual, or physical abuse.
- Were there any interruptions or breakups during the courtship? If yes, please describe them.
- Did you have any concerns about your former spouse during the courtship? Please explain.
- Did either of you express a concern or doubt about the impending marriage? If yes, please explain.
- What were your families' reactions to your engagement?
- Did you and/or your former spouse sign a prenuptial agreement? If YES, what did it cover and why was it necessary? - Can you furnish us with a copy? If so, please enclose.
- What was your respective use of alcohol/drugs during the courtship? Please describe.
- What was the attitude of each of you toward the practice of religion? Was there any conflict about this?
- Describe any significant physical, emotional, psychological, or psychiatric problems either of you may have had during the courtship. How were they treated?
- Did either of you enter military duty during the courtship? If yes, when and why? How did this affect the relationship?
- During our courtship, do you think you were both sufficiently mature and emotionally stable to enter into marriage? If not, please explain.
- Do you think you both had an adequate understanding of what married life entailed? If not, please explain.
- What were your and your former spouse's reasons/motives for marrying?
- Are there any other pertinent issues about the courtship you would like to mention that have not been expressed in the previous responses?

VI. WEDDING AND HONEYMOON

IN NARRATIVE FORM, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

- In what ways did you and your former spouse share in the planning of your wedding?
- Did either of you have any second thoughts in the final days leading up to the wedding? If yes, please explain. Was this discussed with anyone?
- Did anyone express concerns or doubts to you as the wedding day approached? How did you respond?
- Has anyone told you since about their doubts before the wedding?
- What was your attitude during the wedding ceremony?
- Were there any unusual incidents during the day?
- Was there any serious drug or alcohol use prior to the wedding?
- Did you have a honeymoon? If yes, what was its duration? Were there any unusual incidents during the honeymoon? If yes, please explain.
- Was the marriage consummated at this time? If not, why? If not, when was the marriage consummated?

VII. MARRIED LIFE

IN NARRATIVE FORM, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

- How would you describe your initial adjustments in the marriage?
- Was your married life what you both expected it to be?
- Discuss when you first became aware of serious problems.
- Describe your mutual ability to communicate and share affection.
- How were major decisions reached in the marriage?
- Describe your respective relationship with friends during the marriage. Did either of you see these as a problem?
- Describe your jobs and how they may have affected your marriage.
- Did either of you have hobbies or outside interests that kept you away from each other and caused a problem?
- Did you do things together? Please explain.
- How did parents and in-laws influence the marriage?
- Describe the usage of alcohol/drugs by each party during the marriage. Did either of you see the other's use of alcohol or drugs as a problem?
- Were either of you ever hospitalized or treated for emotional or psychological problems during the marriage? Please explain.
- Was gambling or financial irresponsibility evident during the marriage?
- Describe any marital infidelities that may have occurred.
- Were either of you possessive, jealous, or mistrustful of the other person? If yes, please explain?
- Describe and discuss any major disagreements in the marriage.
- Did pregnancy and/or children adversely affect your marriage?
- If you had children, how many and how well were they accepted and cared for by each of you?
- If you did not have children, why not?
- If you agreed to postpone children, please explain why and when this decision was made. Was it a mutual decision?

- Describe to what extent contraceptives were used in the marriage.
- Did both of you act responsibly for the upkeep of the home and the family? If not, please explain.
- Describe and discuss any emotional, sexual, or physical abuse.
- Were there any sexual problems? Please explain.
- Was the use of pornographic material by either of you ever a problem in the marriage? If so, please explain.
- Did either of you exhibit any homosexual tendencies/behaviors during the marriage.
- List the major problems, which, in your opinion, led to the marital breakdown.
- How did you or your former spouse contribute to the marital breakdown?

VIII. SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

IN NARRATIVE FORM, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

- How many separations occurred during the marriage?
- What was the cause of the final separation? Who left whom?
- Were you convinced the marriage was over?
- Describe any attempts at reconciliation and who made them?
- Is there any possibility of reconciliation? Please explain.
- Please feel free to mention anything else about your marriage that has not been expressed in your essay.

ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR MARRIAGE HISTORY, PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE THE FOLLOWING:

"I solemnly promise that the information presented in this Marriage History is the whole and complete truth, so help me God."

Please sign and date your Narrative.

THANK YOU.

Financial Agreement

The work of the Tribunal is supported by the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Shreveport, most of whom never require its services but who, nonetheless, share in the joy of all who are reconciled with themselves and with the Church community.

It seems only fair, however, that those who avail themselves of the services of this office assist in bearing this financial burden. This fee, in reality, is only part of the total expense required to process a case in accord with Canon Law.

Accompanying each petition submitted to the Marriage Tribunal must be a check for the full amount of the fee for the processing of the case. The check (whether a personal check of the Petitioner or a check of the parish) is to be made out to the "Diocese of Shreveport" with a notation on the memo line of the name of the case. The following is the schedule of fees beginning July 1, 2004:

Formal Case	\$450
Lack of Form	\$ 50
Ligamen	\$100
Pauline Privilege	\$150
Petrine Privilege	\$450

- ☐ 1) The fees will be paid by the parish or the priest who accepts the case.
- ☐ 2) The parish may request payment or a donation from the petitioner.
- ☐ 3) Requests for exception may be made to the vicar general in cases of hardship on the part of the petitioner.

(Please check which of the following is most convenient for you.)

- ☐ Enclosed is a check from my parish for \$_____.
- ☐ I, the Petitioner, plan to reimburse my parish by means of a monthly contribution to the Parish Tribunal Account in the amount of \$_____, until the complete reimbursement has been made.
- ☐ I, the Petitioner, ask the pastor a reduction of fee for the following reasons:

Petitioner's signature

Date

Pastor's signature

This Financial Agreement is kept in the parish of the Petitioner.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Please submit the following documents along with this application. Photocopies of the original or official documents may be submitted.

- () A recent certificate of Baptism of any Catholic party [obtainable from the parish of baptism; the certificate must be issued within the last six months].
- () Civil Marriage Certificate [obtainable from the parish/county courthouse which issued the original document].
- () Church Marriage Certificate [if marriage was convalidated (“blessed”) in the Catholic Church, a Church marriage certificate from the Church of marriage is needed].
- () Divorce Decree [obtainable from the parish/county courthouse which issued the original document].

Be sure to include:

- () Completed Marriage History (pages 11 – 14).
- () The names of at least four (4) Witnesses to the marital relationship, with their complete addresses. Please use the witness form provided on page 9.
- () The names of any Professional Witnesses whom you consulted concerning this marital relationship or for any other emotional problems which existed before, at the time of, or during the marriage. Use the Professional Witness form provided on page 10.
- () Any letters, diaries, civil court records, agreements, medical or police records, or any other original documents which could have a bearing on this case.

When the entire Application and Petition is completed and all Required Documents have been found, call your Sponsor to make an appointment to review the Application and Petition. Your Sponsor will present the original to this Tribunal.

Be sure to photocopy this Application and Petition
for your files.
After an initial review of the Judges,
You will hear from the Tribunal.