

**TRIBUNAL  
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER**

Please type your answers to **all** the questions on this application. If you need more space, please add additional pages. **Sign and date** your statement and return it to the tribunal together with the Libellus which your case sponsor will provide for you.

Name _____
Date received _____
Case number _____
For office use only

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby request the Tribunal of Rochester to  
*Your present name*  
investigate the validity of my marriage to \_\_\_\_\_  
*Your former spouse's name*  
which took place at \_\_\_\_\_  
*Place of marriage, including city and state*  
on \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ officiating.  
*Date of marriage* *Name of priest, minister or civil magistrate*

**A. CONCERNING MYSELF**

- 1) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone w/Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Private E-mail \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ City of birth \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Date of baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Religion at time of marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Now \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Names of parents \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Are you in the RCIA process? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- 9.) Prior to the above-name marriage had you been married? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
If yes:
  - a) To whom \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Reason the marriage ended \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) If the marriage ended in divorce, was it declared invalid by the Catholic Church before you entered the above-named marriage? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

**B. CONCERNING MY FORMER SPOUSE**

1) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

\*2) Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

3) Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone w/Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Private E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

4) Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ City of birth \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

5) Date of baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

6) Religion at time of marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Now \_\_\_\_\_

7) Names of parents \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

8.) Prior to the above-name marriage had your former spouse been married? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes:

a) To whom \_\_\_\_\_

b) Reason the marriage ended \_\_\_\_\_

c) If the marriage ended in divorce, was it declared invalid by the Catholic Church before you entered the above-named marriage? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

*\* If you are unaware of the present address of your former spouse, please include an address of a close relative or friend where we may send our letter and request them to forward our letter to your former spouse.*

**C. CHILDREN BORN OF THIS UNION**

Name	Date of birth
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**D. OTHER CHILDREN, i.e., Adopted? Children either of you had with other partners?**

Name	Date of Birth
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

**E. TIME SPENT TOGETHER**

1) When did you start dating your former spouse (**month/year**)? \_\_\_\_\_

2) When did you get engaged (**month/year**)? \_\_\_\_\_

3) Did you and your former spouse live together before marriage? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, starting when and for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

4) Was the bride pregnant before the marriage? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

5) When did problems first arise in the marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

6) What were these problems? \_\_\_\_\_

7) When did you stop living in the same house (**month/year**)? \_\_\_\_\_

8) Why did you separate? \_\_\_\_\_

9) a) Date of final decree of divorce \_\_\_\_\_

b) County and state of divorce \_\_\_\_\_

**F. OTHER MARRIAGES**

List the names of any other persons you or your former spouse have married and the dates of those marriages.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

**G. STATE OF MIND AT TIME OF MARRIAGE**

**(If there is insufficient room for your answer to any of the following questions, please type it on a separate sheet of paper noting the question number.)**

1a) At the time of your wedding, did you intend your marriage to be a life-long commitment?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

1b) At the time of the wedding, did you think that your former spouse intended your marriage to be a life-long commitment?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR RESPONSES TO THE ABOVE TWO QUESTIONS**

2a) At the time of the wedding, did you have any serious doubts about your decision to marry?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

2b) At the time of the wedding, did your former spouse have any serious doubts about the decision to marry?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR RESPONSES TO THE ABOVE TWO QUESTIONS**

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

3a) At the time of the wedding, did you intend to be faithful to your spouse?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

3b) At the time of the wedding, did your former spouse intend to be faithful to you?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR RESPONSES TO THE ABOVE TWO QUESTIONS**

4a) At the time of the wedding, were you open to having children? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

4b) At the time of the wedding, was your former spouse open to having children?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR RESPONSES TO THE ABOVE TWO QUESTIONS**

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

5a) At the time of the wedding, were you under any internal or external pressure to marry?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

5b) At the time of the wedding, was your former spouse under any internal or external pressure to marry?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR RESPONSES TO THE ABOVE TWO QUESTIONS**

6) Circle any of the following factors which may have affected your and/or your former spouse's judgment in making the decision to marry each other. (Circle all that apply.)

severe immaturity; abuse of alcohol or drugs; other addictions;  
psychological or sexual problems; a dysfunctional family of origin; other.

**PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR RESPONSES TO THE ABOVE**

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

7a) In retrospect, were you able to fulfill the obligations of marriage at the time of the wedding?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

7b) In retrospect, was your former spouse able to fulfill the obligations of marriage at the time of the wedding?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR RESPONSES TO THE ABOVE TWO QUESTIONS**

## **H. BACKGROUND OF SPOUSES AND RELATIONSHIP**

**(If there is insufficient room for your answer to any of the following questions, please type it on a separate sheet of paper noting the question number.)**

8) Please describe in detail your own family background and early life.

*What were the strengths and weaknesses of your family?*

*How did your parents treat you?*

*Were there any special problems in the family (alcohol, drugs, any kind of abuse, divorces)?*

9) What affect did your family background have on your decision to marry your former spouse?  
Why did you marry your former spouse?

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

10) Please describe in detail the family background of your former spouse.

*What were the strengths and weaknesses of your former spouse's family?*

*How did your former spouse's parents treat your former spouse?*

*Were there any special problems in the family (alcohol, drugs, any kind of abuse, divorces)?*

11) What affect did your former spouse's family background have on his/her decision to marry you? Why did he/she marry you?

12) Please describe your own strengths and weaknesses prior to and at the time of your wedding. And now?



Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

13) Please describe your former spouse's strengths and weakness prior to and at the time of the wedding.

And now?

14) Did you or your former spouse ever suffer from any psychological illness or serious addiction? Please explain, including when this began.

15) Dating and Courtship

*How and when did you meet your former spouse?*

*What did you find attractive about your former spouse?*

*What were the strengths and weaknesses of your relationship prior to the marriage?*

*Did anyone disapprove of your marriage? (If YES, who, why and when?)*

*When did you become engaged? What preparation did you have for marriage?*

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

16) What was the main motivation for this marriage?

17) What were the strengths and weaknesses of your life together after the wedding?

18) How soon after the wedding did problems arise and what were these problems?

19) How did each of you attempt to cope with these problems?

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

20) What do you consider to be the cause of the breakdown of the marriage?

21) Why do you believe this marriage to be invalid?

22) Do you have anything further to add?

**“I hereby declare that all the information and testimony I submit to the Tribunal throughout this process is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth insofar as I know it, so help me God.”**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant **(Required)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Case Sponsor **(Required)**

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send the names and addresses of four to six persons who will participate as witnesses for your case. Witnesses may be family members or acquaintances who are able to tell the Court about the personality and background of you and your former spouse, about your dating and courtship and about the marriage itself.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Years Known \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Years Known \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Years Known \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Years Known \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Years Known \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Years Known \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

**J. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED** *(To be included with this application at the time when you submit it to the Tribunal office.)*

- 1) A newly issued baptismal certificate (with raised seal) for the Catholic party, ***dated within the last six months.*** (Required only for Catholics. When requesting this document, please ask that any marriage notations be included)
- 2) Record or transcript of the marriage. (Only a Church Certificate is needed for Catholic Marriages).

***Please Do Not send photocopies of numbers 1 and 2 above. Documents should have raised seal of the issuing office. These documents will be returned to you at the completion of your case.***

- 3) **Original, complete** final Judgment of Divorce or Decree of Civil Annulment.

**K. Person you are currently dating or married to outside the Catholic Church:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Is this person Catholic? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If no, does this person wish to become Catholic? (RCIA Process) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Does this person have any previous marriages? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If so, list number of previous marriages \_\_\_\_\_

**Annulled? Name of the Diocese Where the Annulment Was Granted**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Widow** \_\_\_\_\_ **Widower** \_\_\_\_\_

**L. The name of the priest/deacon/pastoral minister who has agreed to act as my sponsor:**

Case Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- Please ***make a copy*** of this application for your records.
- Send this original, signed form (along with the items indicated in section J) by ***certified mail*** to:

TRIBUNAL  
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
1150 Buffalo Road  
Rochester, NY 14624-1890 585-328-3228, x1223 OR 1-800-388-7177, x1223

Petitioner (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent (Maiden) Name \_\_\_\_\_

LIBELLUS

PETITION FOR A DECLARATION OF INVALIDITY

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the undersigned, residing at:

hereby petition the Tribunal of the Diocese of Rochester to declare invalid under the provisions of ecclesiastical law my marriage to \_\_\_\_\_, who resides at:

I entered this marriage on \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_. As one of the parties to the marriage, I have standing, under the provisions of Canon 1674, to challenge the validity of the union.

I contend that this marriage was invalid because:

I shall produce the following documents, proofs, and witnesses:

I understand that the annulment process is not a simple administrative process but a judicial process which must follow the procedures of the Roman Catholic Church.

I understand that no two cases are the same and will not necessarily take the same amount of time.

I understand this process may or may not lead to a determination that my marriage is invalid.

Furthermore, I understand that I may not schedule or enter into a new marriage, or a convalidation of a current union lacking canonical form, until it has been proven that the above named marriage is invalid.

Given at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.  
Place Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Case Sponsor Signature