

Dear Petitioner:

In presenting a case for a declaration of nullity, you are asking the Tribunal to make a judgment as to whether or not your previous marital relationship may be set aside in order to marry again in the Catholic Church. The information printed in this brochure will help you understand this process. However, there are a few matters that must be emphasized:

1. Since marriage involves two people and the decision of the Tribunal judges will affect both parties, Church law requires us to invite the participation of your former spouse. We will ask for information similar to that which we now ask of you. Your former spouse may choose not to participate and, if so, this will not hinder the case. In order to prevent ill feelings, if you have contact with your former spouse, please inform him or her that you are beginning this process. There is more about the involvement of your former spouse in the following pages.
2. Please be assured that the information you provide to this Tribunal is considered confidential and will not be divulged without your permission to anyone who does not have the right to see it. This is normally reserved to the parties and Tribunal personnel. However, if information concerning child sexual abuse is revealed, it must be reported to civil authorities.
3. If, through these proceedings, a declaration of nullity is granted, it will not affect the natural and civil effects and obligations of marriage, such as the legitimacy of children, child support, visitation rights, or alimony. This process is conducted exclusively for religious purposes to determine the validity of your marriage in accord with the teachings of the Gospel and of the Roman Catholic Church.
4. In the document *Mitis iudex*, the Holy Father expressed a desire that the services of the Tribunals be without charge. Thus, we impose no fee for the services rendered in the processing of your case. If, at a future date, you wish to make a freewill contribution toward continuing the work of the Tribunal, it would be greatly appreciated.
5. The *Narrative History* is crucial to the determination of whether a case is accepted or not. If you find it difficult to compose this information, you may wish to make an appointment with one of the Tribunal Auditors to provide your *Narrative History* in person (phone 814-824-1140 for an appointment).

This may be an intimately personal, even painful experience, to provide the information that is requested by the Tribunal. You may find it helpful to complete only a page or two at a time, but try not to delay. Pray for God's assistance in recalling and describing what is needed to begin your case, and please be honest. Your openness and thoroughness will help your case, and perhaps prove helpful to you personally and emotionally. Thank you for your cooperation in all these matters.

May the Holy Spirit guide and support you in this effort. Please be assured of our assistance and prayers.

The Tribunal Staff

# **A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE PROCESS OF PETITIONING FOR A DECLARATION OF NULLITY**

## ***WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW AS YOU BEGIN***

For a divorced and remarried Catholic, a declaration of nullity will allow full participation in the sacramental life of the Church. For persons of other religious traditions, a declaration of nullity will enable your present or intended spouse to celebrate your marriage in the Church and to participate fully in the spiritual and sacramental life of the Church. For many people this process brings an experience of healing. The ministry of the Tribunal can assist in the personal growth, healing, and forgiveness which is often needed after a separation and divorce.

While many people have gained new insight into themselves and their marriage through the process of petitioning for a declaration of nullity, the Tribunal exists primarily as a ministry of justice. A Tribunal is a court of law which exists to resolve questions of law within the Catholic community. The Church considers every marriage valid unless it is proven not to be. Therefore, in a declaration of nullity case the question is whether a given marriage is valid according to the teachings of the Gospel and of the Church. Essentially a declaration of nullity requires sufficient proof that this marriage was not valid from the very beginning.

An affirmative decision will result in a declaration of nullity. This does not mean that the marriage never occurred. Of course it did, and the past cannot be erased or forgotten. It does not render children illegitimate and does not have any civil effects whatsoever. It does mean that the marriage is not considered valid as the Church understands marriage and, therefore, does not bind the parties for life. A negative decision in a case simply means that this nullity was not sufficiently proven to the judges of a Tribunal, but not necessarily that this was a valid marriage.

## ***CONFIDENTIALITY OF TESTIMONY***

The contents of your case will be treated confidentially. No one will read or learn anything who does not have a right to do so. This is normally limited to you and the Respondent (your former spouse) as well as the staff of the Tribunal. If, in the determination of the judges, serious harm would result from revealing particular testimony to you or the Respondent, that testimony will be reserved and not revealed. Your address and the address of your former spouse and your children will never be disclosed to anyone. The only exception to the confidentiality previously described is in cases when childhood sexual abuse is revealed since this must be reported to civil authorities.

## ***THE LENGTH OF THE PROCESS***

When you complete the enclosed forms, you are beginning a lengthy process. Because of the case load of our Tribunal, it will be many months before a decision is reached. The Code of Canon Law (which contains the rules that govern the operation of the Tribunal) indicates that cases should be completed within eighteen months. Most cases are completed within that time. The recent document, "*Mitis Iudex*", issued by the Holy Father, has shortened the process somewhat. However, we still expect cases to take six to eight months. With your cooperation and that of your witnesses, the case may be completed much sooner.

## ***WITNESSES***

It is important for you to remember that you are beginning a legal process, and one which will require proofs and evidence. Normally this is provided by the parties to the marriage and by witnesses. The best witnesses are those who have known you and your former spouse prior to and during the courtship and marriage. Typically, parents, brothers and sisters, childhood friends, neighbors, or other relatives make good witnesses. The witnesses will normally receive a questionnaire by mail. In some cases a personal interview may be arranged. The longest delays in a case often arise when witnesses do not respond. To avoid these delays, we ask you to speak personally with every person you will list as a witness and obtain their assurance that they will respond promptly.

## ***THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUR FORMER SPOUSE***

The process followed by the Tribunal in marriage cases has been refined over many centuries, and exists to protect the rights and interests of both parties, as well as of the Church and of the sacrament of marriage. The Tribunal is under a most serious obligation to ensure and protect the rights of your former spouse, which means that we must notify your former spouse about your request for a declaration of nullity and invite the Respondent to participate in this case by giving testimony and presenting witnesses. Many Respondents simply ignore our correspondence, and the process continues without them. The Respondent does not have the option of stopping this process. Testimony given by a Respondent will always help the judges in reaching a just decision. The Respondent has the right to read and respond to your statements, although this seldom occurs in practice. The Respondent also has the right to know the names of the witnesses and to learn, in general, the content of their testimony. The Respondent may challenge or appeal our Tribunal's decision to a higher Church Tribunal. In essence, since both spouses are considered equal partners in a marriage, both you and the Respondent enjoy the same rights.

## ***WHEREABOUTS OF YOUR FORMER SPOUSE IS UNKNOWN***

If you are unaware of the current whereabouts and have absolutely no means of locating your former spouse, the case can continue. The Tribunal will assist you in locating the Respondent through Church or civil channels. Please provide us with the last known address or that of a parent or family member. You are expected to cooperate with the Tribunal in searching for your former spouse's current address.

## ***PREPARING FOR ANOTHER MARRIAGE***

In evaluating the testimony in a marriage case, the Tribunal judges learn a great deal about the parties and their marriage. Some of this information can be used to help the parties prepare more thoroughly or realistically for a future marriage. The Tribunal is very concerned that your future marriage be as happy and healthy as possible, and particularly that problems from a prior marriage do not resurface. Because of this, in many cases the judges will require special marriage preparation before another marriage in the Church. This special assistance in marriage preparation is not meant as a penalty but as a help; a way of putting the information from your case to good use for your benefit.

This special preparation can take one of these forms:

- Informing the priest or deacon assisting you in your marriage preparation about specific issues or concerns which arose from the testimony in the case;
- A visit to a family therapist at a local office of Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services to discuss specific concerns or questions;
- A referral to a psychologist or mental health professional to discuss special areas of concern.

Because this is a legal process which involves the question of your marital status in the Catholic Church, it must be resolved definitively - one way or the other - before you can begin to prepare for another marriage in the Church. To avoid confusion, anger, embarrassment and hurt, no date can be set for remarriage (or convalidation of an existing civil marriage) before a decision is rendered in your case. If you are a catechumen or candidate for reception into full communion with the Church, your initiation or reception may also be delayed until your marital status is clarified. If you have questions about this, please speak with your parish priest.

## ***THE MAIN STEPS IN THE PROCESS***

Once your petition has been accepted, the Tribunal will begin to process your case in its turn. It may be helpful to summarize the steps that occur during the two main parts of the process:

### ***A. The Investigation:***

- You and your former spouse will be notified by mail as to the ground(s) under which the case will be investigated.
- You may be asked to provide additional testimony either in a written questionnaire or through a personal interview or both and, if necessary, to authorize the release of confidential reports from agencies or individuals from whom you received counseling.
- You will be asked to submit the names of witnesses who will be contacted by mail in order to obtain their testimony.
- Your former spouse will be invited to offer testimony either in writing or in a personal interview. (Please note: you and your former spouse will never be asked to appear to testify at the same time.)
- Your former spouse will be invited to present the names of witnesses who will also be contacted for their testimony.
- At the conclusion of the investigation you and your former spouse will have the opportunity to examine the testimony that has been compiled as directed by the Judge.

### ***B. The Decision:***

- Once the investigation is completed, the Defender of the Bond must submit a written report to the Judges citing any reasons why the marriage bond should be upheld in your case.
- The Judge (or panel of Judges) renders the decision in writing.
- You and your former spouse are promptly notified of the decision and will be given an opportunity to examine it at the Tribunal Office.
- You and your former spouse and the Defender of the Bond have the right to appeal the decision to the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia or to the Sacred Roman Rota.
- If the decision of the Erie Tribunal is in favor of nullity and there is no appeal and the 15 day period has lapsed, you will receive notification that the decision is final. Only at that time would you be considered free to marry again in the Church.

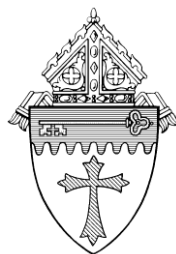
As you can see, the process is rather involved with many steps that must be observed in all of the cases pending before our Diocesan Tribunal. Therefore, we ask you to be patient and to cooperate with the Tribunal staff and follow the directions that you receive throughout the process

**OFFICE OF MATRIMONIAL CONCERNS AND THE TRIBUNAL  
DIOCESE OF ERIE  
429 E. GRANDVIEW BLVD.  
ERIE, PA 16504-2603**

**814-824-1140 (Telephone)  
814-824-1181 (Fax)**

**<http://www.eriercd.org/tribunal.html>**

Revised December 2015

**PETITION TO INTRODUCE A CASE**

***Please Note:*** *It is Very important that you provide ALL of the information requested on this Petition form. Anything left blank may delay acceptance of your case. Be sure to ask for assistance if you are having difficulties. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT!*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, respectfully request the Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie to issue a declaration of nullity of my marriage to \_\_\_\_\_.

In support of my petition, I present the information contained in this form, in the attached Narrative History of the Relationship, and the required documents, which are the following:

\_\_\_\_ Certified Copy of Marriage License  
Application and Record  
\_\_\_\_ Certified Copy of Civil Divorce Decree

\_\_\_\_ Baptismal Certificate (If Catholic, a new copy with notation issued by the church of baptism)

This information is the truth and nothing but the truth. I have read and signed the AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION which explains certain basic rules of the annulment process and that agreement is enclosed.

I request that the Tribunal specify or amend the grounds in my case as the testimony and proofs indicate.

I hereby appoint an Advocate of the Tribunal's choosing if the Tribunal deems this necessary in my case.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness to your Signature

Notary or  
Church Seal

Name and Address of priest or person who  
referred you to the Tribunal:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### PETITIONER

### RESPONDENT

_____	Full Name	_____
_____	Maiden Name	_____
_____	Street Address or P. O. Box #	_____
_____	City, State, Zip Code	_____
_____	Home Telephone	_____
_____	Work Telephone	_____
_____	E-mail Address	_____
_____	Date of Birth	_____
_____	Age at time of the Wedding	_____
_____	Present Occupation	_____
_____	Occupation at time of Marriage	_____
_____	Date of Baptism	_____
_____	Church of Baptism	_____
_____	Address of Church	_____
_____	Religion	_____
_____	Religion at time of Marriage	_____
_____	Current Parish/Church	_____
_____	City/Town of Parish Church	_____
_____	Were either of you married before?	_____
_____	Name of Previous Spouse	_____
_____	Religion of Previous Spouse	_____
_____	Date and Place of Wedding	_____

**PETITIONER****RESPONDENT**

Name of Father

Age

Occupation

Father's Education  
(check highest level)

☐ Grade School  
☐ High School  
☐ College Graduate  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Grade School  
☐ High School  
☐ College Graduate  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Mother

Age

Occupation

Mother's Education  
(check highest level)

☐ Grade School  
☐ High School  
☐ College Graduate  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Grade School  
☐ High School  
☐ College Graduate  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Marital Status  
(check all that apply)

☐ Still Married  
☐ Separated  
☐ Divorced  
☐ Father remarried  
☐ Mother remarried

☐ Still Married  
☐ Separated  
☐ Divorced  
☐ Father remarried  
☐ Mother remarried

Brothers and Sisters

Do you feel that your former spouse will cooperate and participate in this process?

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

Would you be willing to be interviewed by a court psychological expert, should it be deemed necessary?

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

## BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE MARRIAGE BEING STUDIED

1. I first met my former spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
(exact or approximate month and year)
2. I first started dating my former spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
(exact or approximate month and year)
3. We were engaged \_\_\_\_\_  
(exact or approximate date, month and year)
4. Exact date of marriage \_\_\_\_\_
5. Place of marriage \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of Church or building – city and state)
6. Name of person who officiated \_\_\_\_\_
7. Officiant's title (circle one) Catholic priest                      Non-Catholic Minister  
Judge                      Justice of the Peace                      Other
8. If married outside the Catholic Church, was this marriage ever  
convalidated or blessed in the presence of a Catholic priest? \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name of priest \_\_\_\_\_  
Church of convalidation \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of Church - city and state)
9. Final separation \_\_\_\_\_  
(exact or approximate month and year)
10. Civil Divorce Decree \_\_\_\_\_  
(exact date – county/state where issued)
11. Number of children born to this union \_\_\_\_\_
12. Name of each child (list additional children on separate sheet)                      Date of Birth  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION**  
(To be submitted with completed Petition.)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as Petitioner in this case, in recognition of the purely religious nature of these proceedings agree to cooperate with the Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie in its investigation of my marriage to \_\_\_\_\_ and will abide by the rules of the annulment process of the Catholic Church and the terms of this Agreement.

1. I understand that the Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie, in accepting my case for consideration, provides no guarantee that an Affirmative Decision will be rendered in the case. I further understand that allegations of nullity of my marriage must be proven by means of the formal testimony of the parties and witnesses and by authentic ecclesiastical and civil documents. I understand that the burden of providing sufficient proofs rests upon me.

2. I understand that the Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie, in its investigation, may employ the services of a psychological professional or other expert witness and I hereby authorize the Tribunal to release information regarding the case to such an expert witness as appointed by the Tribunal. I understand that the Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie may wish to examine information from a counselor, institution or agency from which I obtained counseling or psychological evaluations and/or therapy either before or during the course of the marriage being studied. I hereby agree to authorize the counselor, institution or agency to release confidential information to the Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie if it is deemed necessary by the Tribunal.

3. I understand that at no time in the course of this process can a definite date of conclusion be given to me or estimated. No guarantee of the completion of my case within a specified time is made.

4. I agree not to make specific plans for a future marriage in the Catholic Church during the course of this case. Rather, I will wait until a final decision is rendered in my case before plans for marriage or convalidation of an existing civil marriage are made.

5. I understand that the contents of this investigation will be kept confidential by reserving it to the parties to this case and the staff of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie. I agree not to discuss the nature of the case or questions proposed to any witness until such time as the case is officially concluded.

6. I attest that I am presenting this case in good faith and that all my statements are true to the best of my knowledge and I agree to provide the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

7. I attest that this marriage has irreparably failed, and that conjugal living cannot be restored. C1675

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness to your Signature



## NARRATIVE HISTORY OF THE RELATIONSHIP

Read all questions before you begin so that you can organize your thoughts. Answer **all** questions in **all** sections. All of these questions are critical to the investigation, because the Tribunal is searching for not only what happened in this relationship, but why it happened. Simple yes or no responses are not sufficient. Prepare your response in a story form following the outline of this guide. Use as many examples as possible. **Do not write on this paper. Please type or print your answers on separate sheets, using standard size (8.5 x 11 in.) paper**

### A. YOUR FAMILY AND PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Describe your mother's personality; your father's personality. Are you more like your father or mother? Explain your own strengths and weaknesses.

Describe how your family got along with one another (i.e., your parents with each other; you and your parents; you and siblings).

Describe the presence of the following in your family and how they affected you personally: unemployment; physical or mental illness; alcohol or drug abuse; sexual, physical, or mental abuse; problems with police or other authorities.

Describe your family's Church membership and what role religion played in your family and in your own life (e.g., attending church, religious education, etc.).

What kind of student you were in school. Describe your participation in school activities and outside of school activities.

Describe your friendships while growing up. Have you kept those friendships or developed new ones over the years? Explain.

Describe your dating experience (including casual dates, going steady, or any engagement) before you met your former spouse.

Describe your personal goals in life before you met your former spouse. Do you normally strive to reach goals and do you normally accomplish them? Do you tend to do things on your own or do you seek out advice? As a child, adolescent, and young adult were you more of a leader or follower? Explain.

Describe your use of drugs and alcohol prior to meeting your former spouse, during the courtship, and during the marriage.

## **B. YOUR FORMER SPOUSE'S FAMILY AND PERSONAL BACKGROUND**

Describe the personality of your former spouse's mother; your former spouse's father. Is your former spouse more like his/her father or mother? Explain your former spouse's strengths and weaknesses.

Describe how your former spouse's family got along with one another (i.e., parents with each other; former spouse and parents; former spouse and siblings).

Describe the presence of the following in your former spouse's family and how they affected your former spouse personally: unemployment; physical or mental illness; alcohol or drug abuse; sexual, physical, or emotional abuse; problems with police or other authorities.

Describe the Church membership of your former spouse's family and what role religion played in that family and in your former spouse's own life (e.g., attending church, religious education, etc.)

Describe what kind of student your former spouse was in school. Describe your former spouse's participation in school activities and outside of school activities.

Describe your former spouse's friendships while growing up. Has your former spouse kept those friendships or developed new ones over the years? Explain.

Describe your former spouse's dating experience (including casual dates, going steady, or any engagement) before you met your former spouse.

Describe your former spouse's personal goals in life before you met. Does your former spouse normally strive to reach goals and does he/she normally accomplish them? Does your former spouse tend to do things on his/her own or seek out advice? As a child, adolescent, and young adult, was your former spouse more of a leader or follower? Explain.

Describe your former spouse's use of drugs and alcohol prior to meeting you, during the courtship, and during the marriage.

## **C. COURTSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT**

Describe how you met your former spouse; what attracted you to each other; what you had in common.

Explain who initiated the dating; how often you saw each other before and after you were engaged. Describe a typical date.

Describe any difficulties with communication (e.g., only talking about trivial or superficial matters; not being able to share feelings; avoiding each other; etc.).

Describe any problems during the courtship and engagement and how often they occurred. How did you address and resolve those problems? Did you break up during the courtship and engagement? If so, explain what happened each time and how you reconciled.

Were both of you faithful during the courtship (before and after the engagement)? If not, explain.

Were you sexually intimate prior to marriage? Who initiated sexual intimacy? Was either of you reluctant or ashamed about this aspect of your relationship? Explain. What effect did this type of intimacy have on your decision to marry? If there was a premarital pregnancy, what effect did it have on the decision to marry?

Where did you and your former spouse live before and after you were engaged (with parents, alone, with others, with each other)? If you lived with each other, why, and for how long before marriage? How did living together differ from being married?

How soon after you started dating did you first talk about marriage? During the courtship what did you discuss about your future life together in marriage? Did you focus more on the wedding ceremony and reception, or on married life? Explain. Did both of you participate in the discussion and planning? Explain.

Explain the plans which you and your former spouse had prior to the wedding about children (how many, when you would start a family). What other plans and goals did you have to meet before you would have children (e.g., paying for college loans, buying a home, etc.)? What plans and agreement did you reach in regard to practicing birth control during the marriage?

How did your families and friends react to the news of your engagement? Describe especially any negative concerns or comments? Did you receive any advice based on such concerns? If yes, why did you or your former spouse fail to listen and act on it?

At the time of the courtship what was your attitude about divorce and about the permanence of marriage? What was your former spouse's attitude? Did both of you intend to be married for life?

Did either you or your spouse have any doubts about getting married? If yes, what were they? Were these discussed with each other or shared with anyone else? Explain.

#### **D. THE WEDDING AND HONEYMOON**

What Church preparation did you have for this marriage? What was the attitude of you and your former spouse toward meeting with the priest, minister or attending any instructions before marriage? Did you and your former spouse use the information from the marriage preparation in your discussions with each other? Explain.

What were the attitude, feelings, and behavior of you and your former spouse at the rehearsal and on the wedding day (both at the ceremony and the reception)? Was the wedding more of a religious celebration or a "show"? Explain. Did anything unusual occur?

Describe your honeymoon, including any problems. How did each of you react to the first days of marriage? During this time were there any feelings of regret or unhappiness by you or your former spouse? With whom were these feelings shared?

## **E. MARRIED LIFE**

Describe where you lived immediately after the wedding (e.g., with others, in your own home/apartment).

Describe how you and your former spouse got along in the first part of your marriage (including how you shared responsibilities as well as how you supported each other in your individual and common goals). How did married life compare with your expectations?

Describe your relationship during the marriage (e.g., sensitivity to each other's needs and values; expressions of affection and any problems with intimacy; communication, decision-making and problem-solving; cooperation in working toward mutual goals; the influence of in-laws or other persons).

At what point in your marriage (month/year) did the two of you begin to experience problems? Explain in detail with examples what these problems were and how they were addressed and whether they were resolved.

Describe any separation(s) and reconciliation(s) before the final separation (what were the reasons for separating and reconciling; month/year when each occurred). What caused the final separation? How did each of you react and cope with the final separation? Describe any problems that resulted from the separation or civil divorce.

If there were no children in the marriage, explain why (e.g., difficulty with intimacy or conception; birth control was practiced; decision to delay or not to have children;).

If there were children in the marriage, who has custody? What contact does each parent have with them? How are both parents fulfilling their moral and financial responsibilities toward each other and the children?

Looking back, what were the reasons which led you to marry your former spouse? How did your family background and personal experience prepare you or influence your approach to marriage?

What is your present lifestyle and that of your former spouse? Has either of you remarried or do you have plans for marriage? If so, give the name of each one's spouse, that date and place of the wedding(s), and date of subsequent divorce if applicable.

Has your present or intended spouse been previously married? If yes, give the name of each prior spouse, the date and place of the wedding(s), and date of subsequent divorce, if applicable.

Please type or print information

# WITNESSES

*It is important that we hear from a variety of witnesses who knew both you and your former spouse before and during the marriage. Parents, siblings, and other family members (including former in-laws) are good prospects. Individual and mutual friends are likewise helpful. If you wish to submit additional names, please use a separate sheet of paper, providing the same information.*

Mr.  
Name: Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ To Whom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number, Street City State Zip*  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  
Name: Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ To Whom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number, Street City State Zip*  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  
Name: Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ To Whom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number, Street City State Zip*  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  
Name: Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ To Whom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number, Street City State Zip*  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  
Name: Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ To Whom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number, Street City State Zip*  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  
Name: Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ To Whom: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number, street City State Zip*  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

***I have contacted all the witnesses listed above  
and they have agreed to cooperate.***

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

## COUNSELING INFORMATION

Have *you* ever received any counseling or psychological treatment?

Yes    No

Has your *former spouse* ever received counseling or

psychological treatment?                      Yes    No

Did *you and your former spouse* receive joint counseling

or psychological treatment?                      Yes    No

\_\_\_\_\_

If any of the above statements is "Yes" please list the name of the Counselor and/or Agency, complete address, and the dates seen.

**NAME**

**ADDRESS**

**CITY/STATE**

**DATES**

YOU

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

YOUR FORMER SPOUSE

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

JOINT COUNSELING

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN THE ENCLOSED RELEASE FORM(S) AND SIGN YOUR NAME AS IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE SEEN BY THE ABOVE COUNSELOR(S).

## CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

I hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to release information  
(Health Care Facility/Counselor's Name)  
from the records of \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
(Patient's Name - please print) (Date of Birth)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date(s) of treatment)

This information is to be released to Office of Matrimonial Concerns of the

Diocese of Erie. 429 E. Grandview Blvd. Erie, PA. 16504-2603  
(Name and Address of Requestor)

in order to help me in determining a matter of conscience in reference to my marriage and none of these records will be used for any other purpose or divulged to anyone outside the Marriage Tribunal. The information to be released is:

☐ Psychiatric Evaluation

☐ Therapy Notes

☐ Diagnoses

☐ Discharge Summary

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I have been told that, in order to protect the limited confidentiality of these records, my agreement to obtain or release information is necessary and that this consent is limited for the purposes and to the agency or person listed above. This consent will be effective from the date of my signature for a reasonable time in order to effectuate the purposes for which it is given. I also understand that this consent is revocable upon written request except to the extent that action has been taken in reliance thereon. I understand the nature of this release and freely give my consent.

This consent shall be in effect from \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness