



Archdiocese of Santa Fe ~ Office of the Tribunal

PETITIONER’S QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MARRIAGE NULLITY

This questionnaire is to be used in all inquiries concerning a Formal Declaration of Nullity. It is absolutely essential that all factual information be given as requested and all questions answered in detail. Answers must be typed or written legibly in black ink. If your answers will be typed using a word processor, please use either Arial or Times New Roman fonts no smaller than 12 point. Please keep a copy of the Questionnaire before forwarding it to the Tribunal Office of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Catholics who were married first by a non-Catholic Minister or a civil official, refer to both wedding ceremonies in your testimony.

Table with 3 columns: PETITIONER, (blank), RESPONDENT. Rows include: Full Present Name, Maiden Name, Street Address, City, State, Zip Code, Home Telephone Number, Work Telephone Number, Cellular Telephone Number, Date of Birth, Date of Baptism, Denomination/Religion, Church of Baptism, Address of Church of Baptism, Current Parish, Current Parish Address, Present Religion, Email Address.

Date of Marriage: _____ Officiated by: _____

Catholic Minister; Non-Catholic Minister; Civil Official; Other.

Place of Marriage: _____

Address: _____

Date of Final Separation: _____ Date of Civil Divorce: _____

Civil Court that granted the divorce: _____

Number of Children: _____

COPIES OF THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE(S) AND DIVORCE DECREE(S) MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.

The following questions, while lengthy and detailed, are intended to give a complete background of the total relationship of the Parties to the marriage now being questioned. Please answer each question clearly, numbering the question being answered.

Please answer all questions in detail; a simple “yes” or “no” answer is generally not sufficient. Please consult with a Catholic Priest or other Catholic Pastoral Minister before submitting the questionnaire to the Tribunal Office of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

A. FAMILY/PERSONAL BACKGROUND AND CHARACTER OF SPOUSES

I. Concerning Yourself

- A1. Tell me about your parents, what were they like? Describe your relationship with them.
- A2. Describe your parents' marriage and any problems with their marriage?
- A3. Where did you grow up? Did your family move? If so, how often, and where?
- A4. How many brothers and sisters do you have and what is your relationship with them today?
- A5. Describe your home life during your childhood and teen years.
- A6. Did you have any health problems while you growing up?
- A7. Have you ever been treated for emotional, psychological, or psychiatric problems? If so, please describe, giving the names of doctors and places where you were treated.
- A8. Describe your education and job history up to and including the time of your marriage; who you worked for, the number of years or months, why you changed jobs.
- A9. What would you consider the good points of your personality?
- A10. What would you consider the weak points of your personality?
- A11. Describe your religious upbringing.
- A12. Was there any history of alcohol or drug abuse in your family?
- A13. Was there any history of physical, mental or sexual abuse in your family background? Please explain.

II. Concerning your Former Spouse

- A14. What were your former spouse's parents' like? Describe your relationship with them.
- A15. Were there any problems in your former spouse's parents' marriage? Describe in detail.
- A16. How many brothers and sisters did your former spouse have? What was your former spouse's relationship with them?
- A17. Describe your former spouse's home life during his/her childhood and teen years.
- A18. Did your former spouse have any health problems during the time he/she was growing up?
- A19. Has your former spouse ever been treated for psychological problems? If so, please describe giving the names of doctors and places where he/she was treated.
- A20. Describe your former spouse's education and job history up to and including the time of your marriage; who he/she worked for, the number of years or months, and why he/she changed jobs.
- A21. What would you consider the good points in your former spouse's personality?
- A22. What would you consider the weak points of your former spouse's personality?
- A23. Please describe your former spouse's religious upbringing.
- A24. Was there any history of alcohol or drug abuse in your former spouse's family?
- A25. Was there any history of physical, mental or sexual abuse in your former spouse's background? Please explain.

B. COURTSHIP/ENGAGEMENT: FACTORS LEADING TO THE DECISION TO MARRY

- B1. When, where and how did you meet your former spouse?
- B2. How often after this did you date?
- B3. Looking back, what attracted you to your former spouse? Do you know why he/she was attracted to you?
- B4. Briefly describe your relationship with your former spouse during the time of dating.
- B5. What did you do on your dates?
- B6. When did you come to believe that you were in love?
- B7. What did you understand love to mean?
- B8. Was there anything unusual during the courtship?
- B9. How old were you at the time the courtship began?
- B10. Did you live together (cohabitate) prior to the marriage? If so, how long? Were you married by a Civil Court [Justice of the Peace, Judge] or non-Catholic Church? **If so, please answer B10-a through B10-h.**
 - B10-a. What date did the civil marriage take place?
 - B10-b. What date did the Church marriage take place in the Catholic Church?
 - B10-c. Why did the marriage not take place initially in the Catholic Church? Be specific in your answer.
 - B10-d. What were the circumstances that brought about the marriage in the Catholic Church?
 - B10-e. Was there any pressure to get married in the Church by anyone outside the parties themselves, e.g.: parents, friends, etc.? If so, give details.
 - B10-f. Were there problems in the civil marriage that still existed at the time the marriage was validated in the Church? If so, please explain.
 - B10-g. If there were problems in the civil marriage, why was the marriage validated in the Church?
 - B10-h. Did you and your former spouse receive instructions from a priest or deacon before having the marriage validated? If so, what was the extent of the instructions?
- B11. Were you engaged, and for how long?
- B12. Was the engagement ever terminated? If so, why?
- B13. Did you engage in premarital sexual activity? If so, how did this affect your relationship, dating patterns and decision to marry?
- B14. Was there a premarital pregnancy? **If so, please answer questions B14-a through B14-h.**
 - B14-a. What was your reaction when the pregnancy was discovered?
 - B14-b. What was the reaction of your former spouse when the pregnancy became known?
 - B14-c. What was the reaction of your parents concerning the pregnancy?
 - B14-d. What was the reaction of the parents of your former spouse?
 - B14-e. If the pregnancy did not happen, would the marriage have taken place? Please explain.
 - B14-f. Did the parents of either party or any other person place any kind of pressure on either party to marry? If so, explain.
 - B14-g. Did you and your former spouse consider any alternative to marriage at the time the pregnancy became known?
 - B14-h. Do you have any other comments concerning this matter?
 - B14-i. Please give the date(s) of the Church marriage and the Civil marriage (if applicable).
 - B14-j. What is the birthdate [month/day/year] of the child born of the premarital pregnancy?
 - B14-k. If the difference between the date of the marriage and the date of the birth of the first child born from the premarital pregnancy is greater than 9 [nine] months, please explain the reason for the delay?
 - B14-l. If a premarital pregnancy occurred that led to an abortion, what was the cause or circumstances for you or your former spouse to procure an abortion?
- B15. Did you date exclusively during the engagement?

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- B16. What was your dating history before meeting your former spouse?
- B17. What was your former spouse's dating history before meeting you?
- B18. What was the attitude of your parents, relatives and friends toward your courtship?
- B19. Describe how the topic of marriage first arose.
- B20. What basic reasons did each of you have in deciding to marry each other?
- B21. How long before the marriage was the wedding date set?
- B22. During the time of the courtship, did you or your former spouse have any issues or addictions with:
 - a. Pornography?
 - b. Alcohol?
 - c. Drugs [prescription or illicit]?
 - d. Sexual abuse?
 - e. Gambling?
 - f. Criminal behavior, especially that which lead to conviction?
- B22-a. If you answered *yes* to any of the above, please give specific details, attaching public documentary evidence, if any.

C. CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE: PREPARATION, WEDDING DAY AND HONEYMOON

- C1. Give your reasons for marrying in the Catholic Church.
- C2. Prior to the marriage did you receive any instructions about marriage itself (*e.g., from a priest, deacon, minister, counselor, Pre-Cana program, Engaged Encounter, Evening for the Engaged, etc.*)?
- C3. Was the teaching of the Catholic faith regarding fidelity, children, and permanence of marriage discussed during the preparation?
- C4. What was the reaction of each of you to these instructions?
- C5. What role did religion play in your lives at this time?
- C6. If this was a mixed marriage, (*Catholic and non-Catholic*) was there any conflict about religious differences or about raising children in the Catholic faith?
- C7. At the time of the wedding did either one of you have any serious doubts that this was the person with whom you wanted to spend the rest of your life?
- C8. Did anyone advise you against the marriage? Why?
- C9. What part did each of you play in planning your wedding?
- C10. Did you write your own vows? If so, what were they?
- C11. Did either of you have any conditions or reservations in your minds about marriage itself or about each other before you married? If so, please explain what they were.
- C12. Did anyone interfere with your plans?
- C13. Did anything unusual happen on the day of the wedding, or the time immediately preceding it?
- C14. At the time of the wedding vows did each of you believe that you were surrendering your freedom to marry again even if this marriage proved unhappy? If not, please explain.
- C15. Was there any kind of pre-nuptial contract or agreement? If so, please describe.
- C16. Did you have a honeymoon? Describe your honeymoon.
- C17. Describe any problems, frustrations, or disturbing discoveries on the honeymoon.
- C18. Was there any force or fear, internal or external pressures, leading you to marry? If so, please explain.

D. THE LIFE OF THE MARRIAGE

- D1. What was the first year of your marriage like?
- D2. Describe your sharing of activities and friendships during the marriage?
- D3. What roles did each of you assume during the marriage in the care, support, and maintenance of the home and family?
- D4. How did you make decisions in the marriage?
- D5. To what extent were you and your spouse able to communicate honestly and effectively with each other?
- D6. Were you able to express and share your feelings with one another?

- D7. How would you describe your sexual relationship?
- D8. Describe any problems, frustrations or disturbing discoveries during the marriage.
- D9. Did you or your spouse intend never to have any children? Explain.
- D10. Were contraceptives used in the marriage? If so, at whose initiative and for how long?
- D11. Names of children born to you and your spouse, or adopted by both of you (*please include dates of birth and/or adoption*)?
- D12. How did you get along with your spouse's family?
- D13. How did your spouse get along with your family?
- D14. Were there any job related problems during your marriage?
- D15. Describe any problems with infidelity in the marriage. Infidelity on your part, your former spouse's part or on the part of both? When did they begin and when were they resolved?
- D16. What kind of parent were you?
- D17. What kind of parent was your former spouse?
- D17-a. Did you or your former spouse come into this common life with children from a previous marriage, union, or relationship?
- D17-b. How did the children from a previous marriage, union, or relationship affect the common life negatively or positively? Please explain.
- D18. Were there financial problems that adversely affected your marriage?
- D19. Were there any problems with alcohol and/or drug abuse?
- D20. What role did religion play in your marriage?
- D21. If applicable, were there any difficulties arising from cultural, racial or religious differences?

E. FACTORS LEADING TO THE BREAKDOWN OF THE MARRIAGE AND FINAL DIVORCE

- E1. When did problems first arise in your marriage?
- E2. Describe in detail the nature of the problem(s).
- E3. What was done to resolve the problem(s)?
- E4. When was divorce first mentioned? By whom?
- E5. Describe temporary separations of any nature that occurred during the marriage. When, how long, and why?
- E6. When and why did the final separation take place?
- E7. Were there any attempts at reconciliation?
- E8. Was there any professional counseling for the problems of marriage? Give place, names and dates of the counselors and sessions.
- E9. Are you willing to sign a release for the counselors to testify? If so, give full name and present address.
- E10. Were there other parties involved in the break up of the marriage?
- E11. Was there any physical, sexual or mental abuse during the marriage? By whom? Describe.
- E12. Did the abuse of alcohol and/or drugs play any part in the failure of the marriage? Explain.
- E12-a. If you answered *yes* to question B22, how did the issue or addiction play a role in the failure of the marriage? Please explain.
- E12-b. If you did not answer *yes* to question B22, were there any issues of addiction [described in B22] or criminal behavior that affected this common life in a negative manner? Please explain.
- E13. What were your main complaints about your spouse?
- E14. What were his/her main complaints about you?
- E15. Who filed for civil divorce? When was it granted? Under what grounds?
- E16. How long did you actually live together?
- E17. Given the length of your common life (several weeks, several months or many years), why did you stay together for that length of time?
- E18. Why do you believe that your marriage was null and void from the beginning?

F. POST DIVORCE ISSUES

- F1. Who received custody of the children? Why?
- F2. Have both parties lived up to their financial, moral, spiritual, and family responsibilities to the children of the marriage?
- F3. Are there any pending civil litigations arising from the marriage?
- F4. Have you remarried? If so, please list the name(s), date(s) of remarriage, religion and previous marital status of your spouse(s) (if more than one marriage, please list same information for all subsequent marriages).
- F5. If you have not yet remarried, but are planning to do so, please give name, religion and marital status of your proposed spouse, including maiden name, and number of marriages. If your proposed spouse has a prior bond of marriage, even if it did not take place in the Church, please consult with your Advocate.
- F6. Has your former spouse remarried? If so, please give the name, religion and previous marital status of his/her present spouse.
- F7. Why are you requesting a declaration of nullity from the church at this time?
- F8. Do you wish to add anything else relative to the marriage in question?

PLEASE REMEMBER: COPIES OF THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE(S) AND DIVORCE DECREE(S) MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.

WITNESSES: Please identify individuals who have knowledge, and are willing to cooperate in confirming the marital history you have provided. Friends or family members can serve in this capacity: particularly people that knew both you and your former spouse during the courtship and the life of the marriage. Complete the information below for each witness. List additional witnesses on a separate sheet of paper.

WITNESS 1		WITNESS 2
	NAME:	
	ADDRESS 1:	
	ADDRESS 2:	
	CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
	RELATIONSHIP:	
WITNESS 3		WITNESS 4
	NAME:	
	ADDRESS 1:	
	ADDRESS 2:	
	CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
	RELATIONSHIP	
WITNESS 5		WITNESS 6
	NAME:	
	ADDRESS 1:	
	ADDRESS 2:	
	CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
	RELATIONSHIP:	

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EXPERT WITNESSES (Priest, Minister, Counselor, Social Worker, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Doctor, and Other Professional you have consulted regarding the marriage in question). You will be mailed under separate cover, a release form for each expert witnesses named:

EXPERT WITNESS 1		EXPERT WITNESS 2
	NAME:	
	ADDRESS 1:	
	ADDRESS 2:	
	CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
	TELEPHONE:	
	DATES VISITED:	
EXPERT WITNESS 3		EXPERT WITNESS 4
	NAME:	
	ADDRESS 1:	
	ADDRESS 2:	
	CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
	TELEPHONE:	
	DATES VISITED:	

You should be aware that if both you *and* your former spouse saw the same expert witness, it is policy of the Tribunal to obtain a *Release Form* from both parties before the expert witness may be approached to provide testimony.

Checklist – I have provided the following for consideration:

- _____ I have completed the first page of this petition, including providing the address for my former spouse.
- _____ I believe my former spouse will be willing to participate in this process by offering testimony *Yes / No*.
- _____ I have named a minimum of two (2) witnesses, including their names and mailing addresses.
- _____ I have enclosed a certified copy of my marriage certificate.
- _____ I have enclosed a certified copy of my divorce decree.
- _____ If I answered *yes* to question B22, I am enclosing any available public documentary evidence that may be available to support my claim.
- _____ I have met with my Advocate who has reviewed my petition in-full.
- _____ I am enclosing the required Administrative Fee.

Please do not submit your Petition to the Tribunal without providing a current mailing address for your former spouse (the Respondent) and at least two (2) witnesses. Please consult your Advocate if you are unable to do so, who will then obtain instruction from the Office of the Tribunal.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTENT: I understand that a non-refundable administrative fee of \$150.00 associated with processing my marriage nullity case is required to be paid upon application by myself, the Petitioner. I am enclosing \$150.00. I also understand that if the Judge instructing my case finds it necessary to seek the assistance of a professional evaluation of the case, I will be responsible for an additional \$140.00 to cover the cost associated with the professional evaluation.

PROCURATOR/ADVOCATE (Priest, Deacon, Religious, or other Pastoral Minister in the parish who is assisting you with your case):

NAME:	
ADDRESS 1:	
ADDRESS 2:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
TELEPHONE:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	

By my signature I declare that the answers I have given are true and accurate, SO HELP ME GOD!

Petitioner

Parish/Pastoral Minister

Date

Place

PARISH SEAL:

**Please return to:
Office of the Tribunal, Archdiocese of Santa Fe
4000 St. Joseph Place, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
505-831-8177 (phone)**