PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY

METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002 | 860.541.6491

Dear Petitioner:

As you begin preparing the Petition for Declaration of Nullity, please understand that the purpose of this application is to formally request that the Metropolitan Tribunal **initiate an investigation** to clarify whether or not you are bound by a previous marriage according to the teaching and law of the Roman Catholic Church, the result of which will be either an affirmative or a negative decision. The enclosed Petition, together with the required documents (see Submission Checklist at the end) and your sworn testimony, as well as that of your former spouse and witnesses, will provide the basis by which the Tribunal Judges will make a decision.

Things to keep in mind:

1. Complete the questions as accurately and as thoroughly as possible. **Do not leave blank spaces**.
2. Questions about the time before the wedding and the exchange of consent are particularly important.
3. Just as you (the **Petitioner**) are exercising your canonical right, so too your former spouse (the **Respondent**) also has procedural rights, including notification of the Petition and the opportunity to participate.
4. The Tribunal cannot guarantee an affirmative outcome or a set completion date. **Please DO NOT schedule a Catholic wedding until you have the final decree in hand from the Tribunal**.
5. When printing out this packet, print 1-sided only. The back of each page must be left blank.

If you would like assistance in completing this form, please speak with a Priest or Deacon at the Parish. Once it is complete, please mail it and the required documents to the attention of the Office of the Metropolitan Tribunal. The Tribunal will then notify you in writing that your Petition has been received as well as notifying you of the next steps in the process. In order for the process to run smoothly, it is important that you keep us informed of any change in address for you, your former spouse (if you are able) or your witnesses. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Tribunal Office.

If, after receiving your Petition and documentation, it is discovered that you have a special case which might be better addressed, by another type of process, you will be contacted by the Tribunal to explain the options available to you.

May you know peace.

Reverend Christopher M. Ford, J.C.L.
Judicial Vicar

THE PETITIONER — INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Full Legal Name (first name, middle name, last name)

Maiden Name

Mailing Address (street, city, state)

Mailing Address (county, zip code, country)

Preferred Phone Number

Email Address

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Place of Birth (city, state, country)

You authorize us to leave a message regarding your case at:

☐ **Phone** ☐ **Email**

Gender

☐ **Male** ☐ **Female**

Preferred Language

☐ **English** ☐ **Spanish** ☐ **Other:**_____

Were you ever baptized before the marriage in question?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, Date of Baptism (mm/dd/yy)

Church or Parish of Baptism

Address (street, city, state)

Address (county, zip code, country)

Religion or Denomination at time of the Marriage:

Current Religion or Denomination:

Current Parish (name, address):

Are you currently enrolled in the Catholic OCIA (Order of Catholic Initiation for Adults) Program?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

THE PETITIONER — CURRENT MARITAL STATUS

What is your current marital status?

☐ Single ☐ Engaged ☐ Civilly Remarried

If Remarried or Engaged: Full Legal Name of Current or Intended Spouse (first name, middle name, last name)

Religion of Current or Intended Spouse:

If not Catholic, is your current/intended spouse enrolled in Catholic OCIA (Order of Catholic Initiation for Adults) Program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, in which Parish?

Address of Parish (street, city, state)

Address of Parish (county, zip code, country)

Is this your only marriage since your marriage to the Respondent?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Was your current or intended spouse ever married before?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what type of ceremony:

☐ Religious ☐ Civil Ceremony

THE RESPONDENT— INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FORMER SPOUSE

Full Legal Name (first name, middle name, last name)

Maiden Name

Mailing Address (street, city, state)

Mailing Address (county, zip code, country)

Phone Number

Email Address

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Place of Birth (city, state, country)

Are you currently in contact with the Respondent?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please make every effort to provide the complete current mailing address of the Respondent. If you have made serious efforts to locate the Respondent, but still cannot provide a complete address, please use the Supplement A Form: Effort to Locate Respondent found at the end of the Petition packet.

Was the Respondent ever baptized before the marriage in question?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, Date of Baptism (mm/dd/yy)

Church or Parish of Baptism

Address (street, city, state)

Address (county, zip code, country)

Religion or Denomination at time of the marriage:

Current Religion or Denomination:

THE MARRIAGE

Type of ceremony:

☐ **Religious** ☐ **Civil Ceremony**

Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yy)

Name of Priest, Minister or Officiant

Name of Church or Place of Marriage

Address (street, city, state)

Address (county, zip code, country)

Your Age at the time of marriage:

Respondent's Age at the time of marriage:

Was this your first marriage?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Was this the Respondent's first marriage?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Have you ever petitioned for an Annulment before?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes: Tribunal and Approximate Year

IMPORTANT NOTE: If either you or the Respondent were ever married to anyone before the marriage in question (whether a Religious or Civil Marriage), please list information about EACH prior marriage in Supplement B Forms found at the end of the Petition packet.

SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

How long were you Married to the Respondent before the Final Separation?

Number of separations?

Date of Final Separation

Briefly, what led to the Final Separation?

Who applied for the Civil Divorce?

☐ **Petitioner** ☐ **Respondent**

On what grounds was the Divorce granted?

Date of Divorce (mm/dd/yy)

Name of Court that granted the Divorce:

Location (city, county, state, country)

CHILDREN

Number of Children born during the marriage:

If no children were born, why not?

What are the current ages of the children?

If minors, who has legal custody?

How many children did you adopt during the marriage?

Are there outstanding court-ordered obligations regarding children or spousal support?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Are you obligated to pay child and/or spousal support assessed by the civil courts?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Is the Respondent obligated to pay child and/or spousal support assessed by the civil courts?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Is there any ongoing or pending litigation in the Civil Courts between you and the Respondent?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Is there a current protection-from-abuse order, restraining order, or similar court order in effect between you and the Respondent?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

PERSONAL AND FAMILY BACKGROUND

1. **Describe your family environment growing up.**

2. **Were there any hardships or experiences during your early years that are noteworthy? If so, please explain.**

3. **What do you know of the Respondent's family background?**

4. **Are you aware of any noteworthy hardships or experiences during the Respondent's early life? If so, please describe what you know.**

COURTSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

5. **When and how did you meet?**

6. **At the time you met, what was going on in your life?**

7. **In the Respondent's life?**

8. **Any major circumstances or difficulties that affected either of you?**

9. **Describe how the relationship developed.**

10. **How long was your courtship before you decided to marry?: _____**

11. **Did you and the Respondent live together prior to the marriage? If yes, how long?**

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12. **Was there a pregnancy or suspicion of pregnancy prior to the marriage?**

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

13. **Did you and the Respondent enter into a pre-nuptial agreement? If yes, please provide a copy of the agreement.**

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

14. **Who brought up the topic of marriage?**

15. How did the engagement occur?

16. Was it ever cancelled or broken? If so, please explain.

THE DECISION TO MARRY

17. Why did you decide to marry this person at that time?

18. Did anything specific, or anything unusual, occur that prompted your decision to marry? Please explain.

19. Did either person experience force, threats, serious fear, or a sense of having no real choice? Please explain.

UNDERSTANDING OF MARRIAGE

20. Did you both participate in any Pre-Cana Matrimonial Instruction? If so, with whom and how often?

21. At the time of the wedding, what did a lifelong marriage mean to you?

22. What did you believe the Respondent understood?

23. What did each of you understand about faithfulness and exclusivity?

24. Did you believe that infidelity gave a spouse the right to end the marriage and enter another?

25. **Was infidelity a problem in your marriage?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **If yes, please explain.**

26. **In your perception, were there conditions, events or circumstances that would allow the marriage to end? If yes, please explain.**

27. **What were your views about having and raising children?**

28. **Before the wedding, what had you and the Respondent discussed and decided about having children in the marriage?**

29. **Did either of you place conditions on when to attempt to have children (e.g. if the marriage is successful; if a certain financial stability is reached; if a certain career goal is attained?).**

30. Did either make plans regarding the delaying of children by using birth control or some sort of sterilization?

31. Leading up to the wedding, were either of you sexually active with someone else? Explain.

CAPACITY AND CIRCUMSTANCES AT TIME OF CONSENT

32. Before the wedding, were there serious difficulties involving judgment, emotional stability, addictions, violence, or other circumstances that affected either person's ability to decide or undertake marriage?

33. How did those difficulties affect the relationship before and around the wedding? Please explain.

34. Before marriage, did either of you undergo any kind of psychological/psychiatric evaluation or treatment?

35. Did either party ever see a Licensed Counselor, Therapist, or Clinical Social Worker? If yes, please explain.

MARRIED LIFE AND BREAKDOWN

36. Please explain briefly what problems, issues, or factors you believe caused this marriage to fail, and when did they appear?

37. Were any efforts made to address the difficulties?

38. What do you believe was the Respondent's role in the breakdown of the marriage?

39. What do you believe was your role in the breakdown of the marriage?

40. Looking back, which problems were already present before the wedding?

41. When did the issues of your marriage begin to surface? Was it early on or later into the marriage?

42. When did you stop living together as husband and wife?

43. What led up to the final separation?

ACCOUNT OF POSSIBLE INVALIDITY OF MARRIAGE

By petitioning for a declaration of nullity, you are alleging that your marriage was invalid due to some serious factor that was already present on the day you exchanged marital consent. Therefore, you must indicate the basis for your Petition, that is, the ground(s) of nullity on which the validity of the marriage is/are being challenged. The Tribunal is not concerned with pointing fingers or finding moral fault with either spouse, but with learning the truth of the marriage. Any basis or circumstance for a declaration of invalidity must have existed prior to or from the very beginning of the marriage in question.

PLEASE CHECK ALL THE BOX(ES) THAT YOU BELIEVE APPLY

I. Lack of Sufficient Use of Reason (c. 1095, 1°)

What is it? A person who suffers from a permanent or temporary lack of the use of reason due to a severe disability, mental illness, psychological disturbance, or extreme intoxication at the time of the celebration of marriage, is not able to give valid consent to marriage.

What is it not? A person who does **not** lack the use of reason at the time of the celebration of marriage, even if that person was on medication, consumed alcohol, or suffered from a psychological problem, does not attempt marriage invalidly on this ground.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

II. Grave Lack of Discretion of Judgment Regarding the Essential Matrimonial Duties (c. 1095, 2°)

What is it? A person who, at the time of the wedding, lacks the minimum capacity to make mature and concrete judgment concerning the essential rights and duties of marriage, particularly those relating to permeance, fidelity, and openness to children, due to a grave defect of discretion of judgment arising from a serious psychological anomaly, profound immaturity, or other factors that substantially impair critical judgment, is incapable of validly consenting to marriage.

What is it not? A person who does **not** suffer from a serious psychological problem at the time of the wedding, and/or who is capable of making a concrete judgment about the essential rights and duties of marriage, does not consent invalidly to marriage on this ground, even if that person experienced pressure or doubts, had mixed motivations, or later regrets their decision.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

III. Inability to Assume the Essential Obligations of Marriage (c. 1095, 3°)

What is it? A person who suffers from a serious psychological anomaly and, as a result, is altogether incapable of assuming one of the essential obligations of marriage (i.e. those immediately deriving from permanence, fidelity, and procreativity), is incapable of marrying validly. The psychological problem must be so severe that it makes it humanly impossible, not merely difficult, to take on the essential obligations of marriage. This impossibility can be caused by a mental illness, a psychological disorder, a severe addiction, or a strong homosexual inclination.

What is it not? A person who does **not** suffer from a serious psychological anomaly at the time of the wedding and/or is capable of assuming of the essential obligations of marriage (i.e. those immediately deriving from permanence, fidelity, and procreativity), is not incapable of marrying validly on this ground. Similarly, a person for whom it is difficult to take on the obligations of marriage, or who simply chooses not to do so, does not marry invalidly on this ground.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

IV. Ignorance of the Conjugal Act (c. 1096)

What is it? For matrimonial consent to exist, it is necessary that the parties at least not be ignorant that marriage is a permanent partnership between a man and a woman that is ordered toward the procreation of offspring by means of some sexual cooperation. The Church presumes that those who have reached the age of puberty have the necessary knowledge to marry.

What is it not? A person who possesses the basic knowledge that marriage is a partnership between a man and a woman that is ordered toward the procreation of offspring by means of some sexual cooperation, does **not** consent to marriage invalidly on this ground, even if he/she lacks a fuller understanding of the nature or theology of marriage.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

V. Error of Person (c. 1097 §1)

What is it? At the time of the marriage, one of the parties believes he/she is marrying their intended spouse, when in fact, it is actually a different person. For example: The bride believes she is marrying the man she loves, when in fact, the person to whom she states her vows is that man's identical twin brother.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

VI. Error Concerning a Quality of Person (c. 1097 §2)

What is it? When a person does not intend to marry the other party so much as the quality that they erroneously judge the person to possess, that person marries invalidly. In other words, simple error about a certain quality of a person, such as a personality trait or some fact in the person's history, does not make a marriage invalid, unless that quality is directly and principally intended. This is rare.

What is it not? When a person intends to marry someone and also mistakenly believes that person to possess a given quality, such as a personality trait or some fact in the person's history, that person does **not** marry invalidly on this ground, even if the quality was the reason why he or she wanted to marry. Likewise, failed promises in the marriage do not make the marriage invalid on this ground.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

VII. Fraud (c. 1098)

What is it? A person's consent is invalid if it is given as a result of being deceived by fraud that (1) is intentionally inflicted in order to get that person to give consent and (2) concerns some quality of the other

party which of its very nature can seriously disturb the partnership of marriage. The deceit can be perpetrated by the other party or even by some third party, such as a parent.

What is it not? A person's consent is **not** invalid on this ground if that person is not deceived by fraud that was intentionally inflicted with the aim of obtaining the marriage consent of the other, or if, even though deceived, the deceit does not concern (1) a quality of the other party which (2) of its very nature can seriously disturb the partnership of marriage.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

VIII. Error Concerning Marriage (c. 1099)

What is it? Normally, error about the unity (i.e. marriage to one person), indissolubility (i.e. marriage is for life), or sacramental dignity (i.e. marriage between the baptized is a sacrament) of marriage does not make a marriage invalid. Error of this kind only invalidates when it determines the will. In other words, the error is so deeply held that, in the person's mind, the only kind of marriage that exists is unfaithful/polygamous marriage, or dissoluble marriage, or nonsacramental marriage. The alternative never seriously enters his/her mind.

What is it not? Simply having wrong ideas about the unity (i.e. marriage to one person), indissolubility (i.e. marriage is for life), or sacramental dignity (i.e. marriage between the baptized is a sacrament) of marriage does **not** make a marriage invalid.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

IX. Total Simulation (c. 1101 §1)

What is it? One or both parties has no intention to establish any kind of marital partnership, but has some totally unrelated goal that can be achieved through the appearance of marriage. The ceremony itself is essentially a sham.

What is it not? A person who does **not** actively exclude the possibility of having a marital relationship with his/her spouse at the time of the wedding, even if by marrying they also achieve an unrelated goal, does not consent to marriage invalidly on this ground.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

X. Partial Simulation Against the Good of Children: *contra bonum prolis* (c. 1101 §2)

What is it? In spite of what the parties say in their marriage vows, one or both of the parties actually wills against one of the essential elements of marriage, in this case, the good of children. By its nature, marriage is directed toward bearing and raising children. By marrying, spouses give each other the right to procreative acts, even if those acts cannot or do not end up resulting in pregnancy due to infertility, age, etc. If, at the time of marriage, a party excludes this right, the party marries invalidly.

What is it not? A person who does **not** actively make a decision to refuse or exclude the essential procreativity of the marriage at the time of the wedding, does not consent to marriage invalidly on this ground, even if that person was using birth control or did not actively desire to have children.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

XI. Partial Simulation Against the Good of Fidelity: *contra bonum fidei* (c. 1101 §2)

What is it? In spite of what the parties say in their marriage vows, one or both of the parties actually wills against one of the essential elements of marriage, in this case, the good of fidelity. As terrible as adultery is, it does not make a marriage invalid. If, however, a party enters marriage while intending to reserve the right to be unfaithful or to take multiple spouses, that intention might make the marriage invalid.

What is it not? A person who does **not** marry with the active intention to be unfaithful or to take multiple spouses, does not consent invalidly on this ground, even if he or she has been unfaithful in the relationship or foresees the possibility of becoming unfaithful in the future.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

XII. Partial Simulation Against the Good of Permanence: *contra bonum sacramenti* (c. 1101 §2)

What is it? In spite of what the parties say in their marriage vows, one or both of the parties actually wills against one of the essential elements of marriage, in this case, the good of indissolubility. The bond of marriage lasts until death. No matter how bad things get, even if the parties have to separate, the bond of marriage remains, making a second marriage impossible. If, however, a party enters marriage while reserving a right to dissolve the marriage through divorce and potentially remarry, that party marries invalidly.

What is it not? A person who is aware of the existence of civil divorce, but who does not marry while actively deciding to reserve the right to divorce his/her spouse and remarry, does **not** consent to marriage invalidly on this ground.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

XIII. Partial Simulation Against the Good of the Spouse: *contra bonum coniugum* (c. 1101 §2)

What is it? In spite of what the parties say in their marriage vows, one or both of the parties actually wills against one of the essential elements of marriage, in this case, the ordination of marriage to the good of the spouses. By its nature, marriage is directed to the good of the spouses. If, however, one of the parties positively decides to enter a marriage that is directly ordered toward the harm or corruption of the other party, that party marries invalidly.

What is it not? Mere selfishness, a failure to take into consideration the thoughts, feelings, or point of view of the other, or the commission of abuse during the married life, do **not** invalidate the marriage on this ground.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

XIV. Conditioned Consent (c. 1102)

What is it? One or both parties consent to marriage if and only if a certain condition is fulfilled. If the condition is not fulfilled at the time of the marriage, or if the condition relates to the future, the marriage is invalid.

What is it not? A person who consents to marriage if and only if a certain condition is fulfilled, does **not** marry invalidly on this ground if the condition does not relate to the future and is fulfilled at the time of marriage.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

XV. Force or Fear (c. 1103)

What is it? When a person consents to enter an otherwise undesired marriage only because of force or grave fear inflicted by some other person(s), the marriage is invalid.

What is it not? A person who consents to enter a marriage, even if only because of light fear or pressure inflicted by other people or circumstances, or because of internal pressure, does **not** consent to marriage invalidly on this ground.

I BELIEVE THIS GROUND APPLIES TO THE: ☐ **PETITIONER** ☐ **RESPONDENT** ☐ **BOTH**

44. In your own words, why do you believe this marriage may not have been valid from its beginning?

45. Did you discover, after the wedding, something relevant to the marriage that had been hidden or not disclosed before the wedding? If yes, please explain.

46. Did you or the Respondent marry for a reason other than marriage itself (e.g. a pregnancy, status, etc.)?

LIBELLUS — FORMAL PETITION

PETITIONER: Full Legal Name (first name, middle name, last name)

RESPONDENT: Full Legal Name (first name, middle name, last name)

Date (mm/dd/yy) and Place of Marriage (city, state, country)

I hereby request that the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Hartford accept this Petition to pronounce, according to the Canon Law of the Catholic Church, that the marriage between the spouses named above was not valid.

I contend that my marriage was invalid for the following reason(s):

Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

FOR TRIBUNAL USE ONLY:

Date Received: _____ **Date Accepted:** _____

Judicial Vicar Signature:_____

WITNESSES — PREPARING FOR DEPOSITIONS

The principal parties, Petitioner and Respondent, who live within the Jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Hartford will be summoned to provide their testimony in person at the Metropolitan Tribunal. If this is not possible due to residing outside of the Archdiocesan Territory, the deposition will be conducted remotely.

It is absolutely necessary to provide the names and complete addresses of at least 2, no more than 3 witnesses, who can support the grounds of your case. The best witnesses are friends, co-workers, family members, roommates, or others **who knew both you and the Respondent before and during the marriage**. It is the practice of this Tribunal **not** to accept children or current partners as witnesses. **Please contact your witnesses personally to verify their willingness to give testimony on your behalf and inform them that you will give their names and addresses to the Tribunal. In turn, the Tribunal will send them citation letters**. Their refusal to answer questions can seriously delay or affect the outcome of your case.

Please apprise the witnesses regarding the following:

1. They must be willing to testify about their knowledge of the marriage.
2. Witness testimony may be taken via phone call, WhatsApp, or Zoom, especially for those who do not live within the Archdiocese. Testimony is taken Monday - Friday during normal business hours in accordance with the judge's schedule.

TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, IT IS PREFERRED THAT THE WITNESSES RESIDE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND IT IS ASKED THAT EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT BE MADE TO ACHIEVE THIS. NEVERTHELESS, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS MAY NOT BE POSSILBE IN EVERY CASE.

WITNESS 1:

Name (first name, middle name, last name)

Mailing Address (street, city, state)

Mailing Address (county, zip code, country)

Preferred Phone Number

Email Address

Relationship to you:

Relationship to Respondent:

How long has this person known you?

Gender

☐ Male ☐ Female

Preferred Language

☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Other:_____

WITNESS 2:

Name (first name, middle name, last name)

Mailing Address (street, city, state)

Mailing Address (county, zip code, country)

Preferred Phone Number

Email Address

Relationship to you:

Relationship to Respondent:

How long has this person known you?

Gender
☐ Male ☐ Female

Preferred Language
☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Other:_____

WITNESS 3:

Name (first name, middle name, last name)

Mailing Address (street, city, state)

Mailing Address (county, zip code, country)

Preferred Phone Number

Email Address

Relationship to you:

Relationship to Respondent:

How long has this person known you?

Gender
☐ Male ☐ Female

Preferred Language
☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Other:_____

POLICY STATEMENT

☐ I understand that this process is a canonical process, directed by a team of canon lawyers, judges and court experts who have been commissioned to perform this ecclesiastical duty by the Archbishop of Hartford. As such, it is multi-faceted and consists of numerous phases.

☐ I understand that submitting a Petition does not guarantee that it will be accepted or that a declaration of nullity will be granted.

☐ I understand that the Respondent ordinarily must be notified and given the opportunity to exercise procedural rights, including access to case materials as permitted by law.

☐ I understand that the Tribunal cannot promise a particular completion date.

☐ I understand that if there is a judgment granting the declaration of nullity, it **MAY** contain a clause delaying or restricting permission to remarry in the Church.

☐ I understand that any inquiries about the status of my case are directed to the administrative assistants in the Tribunal or the Tribunal Administrator, **NEVER** to a judge assigned to my case. (Please have on hand the case name and number that will be assigned to you.)

☐ I understand that I must inform the Tribunal of **ANY** changes to my contact information and relevant circumstances.

☐ I have contacted the witnesses whose names and addresses I have supplied and they agree to participate. I understand that I am **NOT** to discuss the facts of my case with them.

☐ I have kept a photocopy of **ALL** the materials I am submitting.

☐ I affirm that the information I have supplied is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Petitioner's Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

PASTOR OR PAROCHIAL VICAR (APPLICABLE TO CATHOLICS ONLY)

☐ **I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE READ THE PETITION AND AFFIRM THAT IT IS COMPLETE.**

☐ I confirm that the Petitioner has **SIGNED** and **DATED** the Petition and the Policy Statement

I offer the following observations:

Printed Name:_____ **Signature:**_____

Parish:_____ **Date:**_____

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

The following are REQUIRED in order to submit your Petition. If any of the following are missing, your Petition will be returned.

- ☐ Completed Petition for Declaration of Nullity (no blank spaces) in black or blue ink or typed.
- ☐ Signed and Dated Formal Petition **(page 21)** with original signature.
- ☐ Signed Policy Statement **(page 24)** with original signature.
- ☐ Original and Updated Marriage Certificate of the marriage in question obtained by the Church.
- ☐ Original Marriage License and/or Certificate of the marriage in question obtained by the Civil Authority, which indicates the officiant and the ceremony type, whether religious or civil.
- ☐ Divorce and/or Civil Annulment Decree for the marriage in question.
- ☐ Original and Updated **(6 months)** Baptismal Certificate of the Petitioner. A copy **WILL NOT** be accepted.

SUBMISSION

Please mail the COMPLETED packet with the above documents to:

The Office of the Metropolitan Tribunal

Attn: Sr. Mariette Moan ASCJ, J.C.L.

467 Bloomfield Avenue

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Any questions or further assistance, please contact the Tribunal at:

860.541.6491 ext. 7490

Tribunal@aohct.org

SUPPLEMENT A | EFFORT TO LOCATE RESPONDENT

Complete this supplement only if you are unable to provide the Tribunal with a complete address for the Respondent, please complete the questions below. In some cases, it may not be possible to accept the case without this information. **YOU MUST PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION FOR ALL SEARCHES AND INVESTIGATION ATTEMPTS.**

Respondent's Full Name (including any former names)

Any other names or aliases, if known

Last Known Address (street, city, state/province, postal code, and country)

Date Respondent was last known to live at that address

Last Known Phone Number (s) and Email Address(es)

Date and method of last contact (in person, phone, mail, email, or other)

Last Known Employer (location and phone number)

Names and contact information of relatives, mutual acquaintances, or other persons who might be able to forward correspondence

Please list in detail what efforts you have made to locate the Respondent's current address:

1. Online directories, public records, or other lawful searches: dates and results

2. Attempts to contact the Respondent at last known addresses or numbers: dates and results

3. Contacts with relatives, mutual acquaintances, attorneys, or other appropriate sources: dates and results

4. Other efforts or circumstances that may assist the Tribunal (on-line search engines, social media, etc.)

SUPPLEMENT B1 | OTHER MARRIAGES (PETITIONER)

A. PETITIONER'S OTHER MARRIAGES

Complete this supplement if **YOU** married anyone else before or after the marriage being examined. Include every civil or religious marriage. Use another sheet of paper if necessary.

Petitioner — Marriage 1

Type of Ceremony: ☐ **Civil** ☐ **Religious**

Name of Spouse

Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yy)

Name of Priest, Minister or Officiant

Name of Church or Place of Marriage

Address (city, state, country)

Was this marriage declared null by the Catholic Church? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **Unknown**

If yes, Tribunal location, case number or date (if known)

Petitioner — Marriage 2

Type of Ceremony: ☐ **Civil** ☐ **Religious**

Name of Spouse

Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yy)

Name of Priest, Minister or Officiant

Name of Church or Place of Marriage

Address (city, state, country)

Was this marriage declared null by the Catholic Church? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **Unknown**

If yes, Tribunal location, case number or date (if known)

SUPPLEMENT B2 | OTHER MARRIAGES (RESPONDENT)

B. RESPONDENT'S OTHER MARRIAGES

Complete this supplement if the **RESPONDENT** married anyone else before or after the marriage being examined. Include every civil or religious marriage. Use another sheet of paper if necessary.

Respondent — Marriage 1

Type of Ceremony: ☐ Civil ☐ Religious

Name of Spouse

Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yy)

Name of Priest, Minister or Officiant

Name of Church or Place of Marriage

Address (city, state, country)

Was this marriage declared null by the Catholic Church? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

If yes, Tribunal location, case number or date (if known)

Respondent — Marriage 2

Type of Ceremony: ☐ Civil ☐ Religious

Name of Spouse

Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yy)

Name of Priest, Minister or Officiant

Name of Church or Place of Marriage

Address (city, state, country)

Was this marriage declared null by the Catholic Church? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

If yes, Tribunal location, case number or date (if known)