

We realize that a great deal of information is being requested from you in the attached questionnaire. This information is necessary to get a full understanding of both parties who are involved in a marital relationship. We are trying to obtain a verbal picture of all aspects of the relationship from its start through to the final breakup.

Brief answers are of little help to the Tribunal. Please answer as fully as possible, giving examples that illustrate your point. It might be easier for you to write down some initial impressions and think about them for a few days before writing your final answers. Also, it will be easier to complete the questionnaire at several sittings. It may happen that your former spouse will request to review your testimony, which is his/her right. Therefore, please compose your testimony with this possibility in mind. Please type your answers, if at all possible, or write clearly.

THE QUESTIONNAIRES

Please answer the questionnaire in essay fashion, covering all points indicated. Be thorough, giving concrete examples to support your statements. Short statements and “yes” or “no” answers are of little value for our purposes.

THE WITNESSES

If you wish to present the names of witnesses to support your contentions in the case, include their names on the WITNESS LIST included with these materials. Witnesses can be anyone who was aware of your marital situation. They can be family members or friends who have such knowledge, either first or second hand. Witness testimony not only supports your statements, but gives an added dimension to the marital picture. If you do not want to present the names of witnesses, disregard the form. Witnesses do NOT have to appear at the Tribunal. They are sent questionnaires which they can complete at home. **YOU MUST SECURE THEIR COOPERATION BEFORE SUBMITTING THEIR NAMES.** After they have agreed to cooperate, add their name to the WITNESS LIST included in this material. List husbands and wives separately, if you wish them to testify separately. Make sure you give a complete name and address.

MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL RECORDS

If you (individually or together with your former spouse) received treatment from psychiatrists, psychologists, or counselors, the reports of this could be most helpful to the Tribunal. However, this information is not available to us, unless you consent and sign a release. If you release such information, we respect the highly personal and confidential nature of such information. We are bound by applicable civil laws regarding the gathering and release of this information. If applicable, please provide any counseling information on the form included with this material. The judge will send you the necessary releases to sign.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE TRIBUNAL

Your former spouse's case has been assigned a case number and name. When calling the Tribunal about the case please have the number and name ready. The case name is your former spouse's last name (maiden name for a woman) followed by your last name (maiden name for a woman).

AFTER COMPLETING THIS INFORMATION

Take this material to your pastoral minister (priest, deacon, pastoral associate) to have it notarized where indicated (or have it notarized by a notary public). Then return everything to:

Marriage Tribunal
Diocese of Crookston
1200 Memorial Drive
Crookston, MN 56716

STATEMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON TRIBUNAL POLICY ON CONFIDENTIALITY

The proceedings of the Marriage Tribunal are exclusively religious in nature and governed by the laws of the Roman Catholic Church. The proceedings are not directed to such matters as the parties' property rights or the custody of children. The purpose of this investigation is to determine the status of the parties in the Roman Catholic Church and their freedom to enter a marriage that will be recognized by the Church. It is the Tribunal's desire that the proceedings may be an opportunity for reflecting and healing, and that it will be conducted in a spirit of Christian justice and compassion.

Fairness and justice require that the Tribunal have adequate information in order to make a responsible and just decision. In addition to testimony of the parties themselves and their witnesses, the Tribunal may request — with proper release — information such as medical or psychological records, school, military, or personnel records.

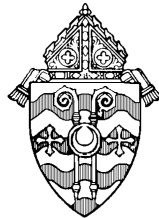
AFFIDAVIT OF RESPONDENT

I ATTEST THAT I HAVE READ THIS STATEMENT OF TRIBUNAL POLICY AND THAT I UNDERSTAND IT. I AGREE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE TRIBUNAL AND I VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE POLICIES EXPLAINED IN THIS STATEMENT.

I FURTHER SWEAR THAT THE TESTIMONY I HAVE SUBMITTED IS THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, SO HELP ME GOD.

DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON

Signature of Respondent



Pastoral Minister / Notary Public

Date

MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

Church/Place

The following set of questions is meant to gather background information concerning you and your former spouse. Please give thorough responses to these questions and include examples, if possible. Avoid giving only “yes” or “no” responses. Please label your answers corresponding to these question numbers.

I. YOUR BACKGROUND

A. Describe your family background and early experiences.

1. What is your father’s ethnic background? What is your mother’s ethnic background? What was your family’s socio-economic level? How many brothers and/or sisters do you have? Where are you in the birth order?
2. What was your mother like? What was your father like? How did your parents get along with each other? How did your parents relate to you and your siblings? Did any of your immediate family members have a problem with alcohol, drugs, or other addictive behavior? Are you aware of infidelity in your parents’ marriage? Did your parents ever separate or get a divorce? Are your parents still alive? Was there physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in your family?
3. Did you graduate from high school? For how long did you attend college? How well did you do in school? Were you involved in sports or extracurricular activities? Did you have any disciplinary problems or any problems with teachers or other students?
4. When did you begin dating? Did you have any long term relationships?
5. When did you begin working? What kinds of jobs did you have? What were the reasons you changed jobs? How did you get along with bosses and coworkers?
6. Were you in the military? How long did you serve and in what capacity? What type of discharge did you receive?
7. When and where were you baptized? What were your religious beliefs and practices while you were growing up? What kind of religious education did you have? What were your religious practices during your marriage?
8. Have you ever had any problems with alcohol or drugs of any kind? Have you ever had any conflicts with civil authorities?

B. Describe your personality and temperament.

1. What is your general mood or attitude? Are you shy or are you outgoing? What kinds of things cause you to react emotionally? Do you have any fears or anxieties? Are you a responsible person?
2. How do you interact with other people? In what ways have you used poor judgment, or repeated mistakes? How do you react when others point out your mistakes or faults? Do you express gratitude easily or with difficulty? Is there a situation that might cause you to lie or cheat? Have you had any instances of physical violence with another person?
3. Have you ever seriously thought about taking your own life or attempted to do so?
4. How do you plan for the future? How are you at handling financial matters? What are your spending habits? What kind of credit record do you have?
5. What serious physical health difficulties have you experienced, if any? Have you experienced emotional problems or any sexual problems while growing up?
6. Have you ever been in counseling? What was the reason for the counseling and what was the result? Have you ever been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons or received outpatient treatment? What was the reason for your hospitalization/treatment and the diagnosis?

II. PREVIOUS MARRIAGE

Were you married to someone else before you married your former spouse?

If your answer is “no”, go to Section III. If yes, answer the following:

What was your age and the age of your partner at the time of a former marriage? What were the circumstances of the former marriage (or marriages)? How long did the marriage (or marriages) last? Why did the marriage (or marriages) break down? Who filed for the divorce in each case? Have the terms of the divorce, such as child support, alimony, etc. been fulfilled?

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CONCERNING THE MARRIAGE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE TRIBUNAL:

III. YOUR FORMER SPOUSE’S BACKGROUND

Please answer Section I (YOUR BACKGROUND) as it applies to your former spouse.

IV. COURTSHIP

A. Describe how you and your former spouse met.

1. How old were you and your former spouse when you met? Were you living at your parents’ home or on your own? Where was your former spouse living?
2. What was your dating history? What was your former spouse’s dating history? Did either of you have any previous serious relationships and/or engagement(s)? Had either of you previously lived with another person? Did you and your former spouse live together?
3. Were there any special circumstances in your life around the time the two of you met (e.g., death/divorce/remarriage of parents or close family members, family relocation, etc.)? Were there any special circumstances in your former spouse’s life?

B. Describe how your relationship developed.

1. How often did you see each other? How did you treat each other? What did family members and friends think about the relationship?
2. What attracted you and your former spouse to each other? What things did you enjoy doing together?
3. What did you argue about and how often? If there were any breakups, how and why did they happen? How and why did you reconcile?
4. Were there any characteristics or differences that caused concern or created problems in your relationship? How did each of you react to these situations?

C. Describe how long the two of you had been dating before it became a serious relationship.

1. How was this relationship different from other dating relationships?
2. Were there any circumstances and/or common interests that brought the two of you closer together?
3. How did each of your families and friends react to an exclusive relationship?

D. Describe any significant problems during the courtship.

1. Was there any substance abuse, including alcohol, drugs, prescription drugs and marijuana use by either of you? What affect did any alcohol or drug use have on either of you?
2. Did either of you have any trouble with the law? If yes, explain.
3. Were there instances of uncontrolled anger, or physical, sexual or verbal abuse by either of you?

V. ENGAGEMENT

A. Describe how the decision to marry came about.

1. Why did each of you decide to marry? How long had you been going together? Were there any special circumstances that influenced each of your decisions to wed? Would either of you not have married had these circumstances been different?
2. Was there a proposal and formal engagement? Who proposed? How did each of you react?
3. How did your families and friends react to the engagement? Did anyone try to talk either of you out of getting married, and why?

B. Describe the engagement period.

1. How long were you engaged? What were your ages? How often did you see each other?
2. Did both of you take part in the wedding plans? What were the reasons for any break-ups during that time? Were problems resolved? Explain.
3. Did either of you have misgivings or doubts? If so, explain. Were there problems that worsened? Were there any special circumstances regarding the decision to marry (i.e., pregnancy, immigration issues, military obligations, etc.)?
4. Did you or your former spouse receive any counseling? If so, what were the results, including any prognosis and/or diagnosis?

C. Describe how the two of you prepared for marriage.

1. Did you attend a marriage preparation program? If so, what program was it? What issues did you and your former spouse discuss? What did you discuss with the clergy person or pastoral minister?
2. What were your expectations for marriage? What were the responsibilities each of you would fulfill? How were important decisions made? What did you discuss concerning fidelity, permanence and children?

D. Was there a pre-nuptial agreement?

1. Who wanted the agreement and why was it wanted? What were its stipulations?
2. Did either of you have misgivings about such an agreement? How were the misgivings handled? Was the agreement insisted upon by one of you?

VI. THE WEDDING

Describe the wedding, reception and honeymoon.

1. What were your thoughts on that day? If you had any second thoughts, what were your concerns? Did anyone try to talk either of you out of going through with the wedding? If so, why?
2. Did anything unusual happen at the ceremony or reception?
3. Were there any problems on the honeymoon? If so, what were they?

VII. THE MARRIAGE

Discuss the marital history.

1. How would you describe your marital relationship? What were your successes and joys? How did you confront challenges and difficulties?
2. Were there problems concerning employment, fidelity, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, abuse of alcohol or other drugs (prescription or non-prescription), etc.?
3. How involved was each of you in the lives of your children?
4. At what point in the marriage did problems become apparent? What did each of you do about them?
5. Were there any temporary separations? If so, for what length of time? Were there any attempts at reconciliation?
6. Did you have individual or conjoint counseling? What suggestions did you receive?

VIII. THE MARITAL BREAKDOWN

Discuss the final separation.

1. What led to the final separation? What part did each of you have in the breakdown of the marriage? What efforts were made to reconcile?
2. Who filed for the divorce? What happened between the separation and divorce? Who moved out, and where?
3. How did family members and close friends react to the breakdown of the marriage?

IX. AFTER THE DIVORCE

Describe what has happened to each of you since the divorce.

1. If there were children, who has custody of them? Have child support/alimony payments been made? Were/are visitation rights fulfilled?
2. How do you and your former spouse treat each other? How stable has each of you been (emotionally, financially, occupationally)?
3. Have you dated since the divorce? Do you have plans to marry? If so, was your intended spouse married previously? Is he/she free to marry in the Catholic Church?

WITNESS LIST

PLEASE LIST EACH WITNESS SEPARATELY. IF A MARRIED COUPLE IS TO TESTIFY, LIST THE NAME OF EACH PERSON (I.E., THE HUSBAND AND THE WIFE) SEPARATELY. **PLEASE SECURE PEOPLE'S COOPERATION BEFORE SUBMITTING THEIR NAMES. IN SUPPORT OF MY TESTIMONY I OFFER THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES:**

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (H) _____

Phone Number: (H) _____

Phone Number: (Cell) _____

Phone Number: (Cell) _____

Relationship to Parties: _____

Relationship to Parties: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (H) _____

Phone Number: (H) _____

Phone Number: (Cell) _____

Phone Number: (Cell) _____

Relationship to Parties: _____

Relationship to Parties: _____

