



4. HOW, WHEN and WHERE (e.g. place of divorce) did EACH marriage end?

Divorce, Death, Annulment	Date	Place (County & State)
A. _____	_____	_____
B. _____	_____	_____
C. _____	_____	_____

5. To which marriage does THIS APPLICATION refer? (Circle one): A or B or C

6. Have ANY of your prior marriages ever been brought to the attention of a church Tribunal or Chancery Office? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, which one, when and where? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Is this a marriage that took place in a non-Catholic setting with the permission of the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, what parish has the Catholic records? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you EVER been baptized, sprinkled or christened? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, in what religion? \_\_\_\_\_ Approximately when? \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of church: \_\_\_\_\_

What was your religion at the time of this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are you related to the Respondent by blood, adoption or as an in-law? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, how? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Ages at the time of the marriage to which this application applies: Man: \_\_\_\_\_ Woman: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONDENT INFORMATION**

*(The Law of the Catholic Church requires the Respondent be notified of this action. Therefore it is your responsibility to provide the Tribunal with the Respondent's current contact information).*

11. PRESENT Legal Name of Respondent to Whom This Application Applies:

(Circle: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms., Dr.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (First) (Middle Initial) (Last)

(Maiden Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (City) (County) (State) (Zip Code)

Is this his/her only residence? \_\_\_\_\_ If NO, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (with area code): (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

12. How long did the two of you date before becoming engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

How long were you engaged before you were married? \_\_\_\_\_

13. How many children were born or adopted into the marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Approximate date when you and the Respondent permanently separated (not the divorce): \_\_\_\_\_

15. Has the Respondent EVER been baptized, sprinkled or christened? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, in what religion? \_\_\_\_\_ Approximately when? \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of church: \_\_\_\_\_

If NO, how do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the religion of the Respondent at the time of this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION B**

Information about the Respondent's prior marital history.

16. Was the RESPONDENT ever married to another person BEFORE marrying you? \_\_\_\_\_ **If NO, go to section C.**

17. How many times was the Respondent married before marrying you? \_\_\_\_\_

*If he/she was married more than once BEFORE marrying you,  
Please answer questions 18-21 for each of these marriages on separate pages and attach.*

18. Was the Respondent's PRIOR marital partner:

a) *alive* at the time you married the Respondent? \_\_\_\_\_ **If NO, go to section C.**

b) *alive* the entire duration of your marriage to the Respondent? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Was this marriage the FIRST for both parties? \_\_\_\_\_ If NO, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

20. Was the Respondent's earlier marriage ever declared invalid by the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Please provide the following information and/or documentation if at all possible.

Name of the Respondent's prior spouse (including maiden name, if female): \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of his/her prior spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of the Respondent's prior marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of the divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION C**

22. Is the Respondent agreeable to the annulment process? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

23. Is there an existing Order for Protection between you and your former spouse? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

24. Has there EVER been an Order for Protection issued by a civil court? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Approx. Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Briefly state in your own words why the marriage under consideration ended:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## SECTION D

### Assessment of Marital Attitudes

25. *People have different attitudes and beliefs about what marriage means, as well as various abilities to live out a married life. The following statements are designed to help the Tribunal gain a better understanding of the abilities, attitudes and beliefs that you and the Respondent held at the time of marriage. These statements help the court to choose appropriate grounds upon which to adjudicate the case. Please review the statements about your marriage and check the boxes that apply to you the Petitioner (Pet) and to the Respondent (Resp). These items refer to traits that you and the Respondent brought into the marriage. In any given section, you may check one box, several boxes or no box. There are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers.*

**Canon 1095 § 2: DEFECTIVE CONSENT DUE TO LACK OF DUE DISCRETION (Grave Lack of Discretionary Judgment):**

A person's ability to make a mature, stable, well-thought out decision to marry is essential for marriage. Because such a decision has life-long implications and intimately involves another person, reasonably mature adult powers of judgment are a necessary requirement. Such judgment presumes a certain knowledge, experience and maturity. Additionally, the decision to marry must be made without pressure from family or a future spouse.

**Pet Resp A. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- was not mature enough to understand what a commitment entailed;
- believed that because of a pregnancy there was no other option except marriage;
- was trying to get away from something unpleasant in our lives;
- believed we were committed to the marriage because of dating for so long;
- because of personality problems did not seriously consider what it would mean to be married to each other;
- had serious doubts about whether this was a good decision;
- did not realistically consider whether our relationship was strong enough for us to be married;
- had little or no dating experience;
- ignored the significant opposition of family and/or friends.

**Canon 1095 § 3: INABILITY TO ASSUME THE ESSENTIAL OBLIGATIONS OF MARRIAGE:** A person must be capable of doing what he/she intends to do. Factors which might render a person incapable of assuming the essential obligations of marriage include, for example, serious character or emotional disorders, substance abuse or other addictions.

**Pet Resp B. At the time of our wedding or prior to, one or both of us:**

- had personal experience with physical abuse, verbal or sexual abuse, alcohol or drug abuse;
- had family involvement with physical abuse, verbal or sexual abuse, alcohol or drug abuse;
- had received or needed to receive counseling for a serious psychological disorder;
- had a mental health diagnosis that was in existence at the time of consent;
- was unable to establish stability in a job, education, lifestyle or a relationship;
- had a history of violence or other antisocial behavior;
- could not accept personal responsibility for actions committed;
- expressed or experienced difficulties with sexual orientation;
- had what appeared to be an addiction to pornography.

**Canon 1101 § 1: TOTAL SIMULATION** In a deliberate way, a person does not mean or intend to do what s/he says in the marriage vows (excluding marriage itself).

**Pet Resp C. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- went through the marriage ceremony for a reason other than contracting marriage;
- had immigration issues that were resolved because of your marriage;
- felt that a career was more important than marriage;
- felt that the most important thing was personal happiness;
- felt that we were creating an 'open marriage';
- wanted to back out of the ceremony but could not do so;
- had no example of a stable marriage while growing up;
- did not intend to assume any permanent obligations toward the other person;
- did not intend a marriage to give any permanent conjugal rights to the other person;
- felt obliged to marry as a means to continue living together;
- had brief conjugal cohabitation (sexual intercourse) after marriage;
- married to gain military benefits.

**Canon 1101 § 2: PARTIAL SIMULATION** (contra bonum prolis: intention against children) excluding an essential element or property of marriage.

**Pet Resp D. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- had or paid for an abortion before or after marriage to avoid procreation;
- never intended to have children, although this may not have been discovered until after the wedding;
- would not have sexual relations unless birth control was used;
- intended to delay, limit or exclude children until our situation was financially secure;
- intended to delay, limit or exclude children until the marriage proved successful;
- never intended to take any responsibility for the upbringing of children;
- knowingly withheld the fact that they were unable to have children.

**Canon 1101 § 2: PARTIAL SIMULATION** (contra bonum fidei: intention against fidelity) excluding an essential element or property of marriage.

**Pet Resp E. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- persisted in a relationship with another party before and after our marriage;
- believed sexual infidelity was acceptable for a reason (e.g., as long as there was no emotional involvement);
- believed occasional sexual infidelity was acceptable for a reason (e.g., as long as it remained hidden);
- believed sexual infidelity was acceptable as long as both parties agreed;
- was sexually unfaithful shortly before or shortly after the wedding.

**Canon 1101 § 2: PARTIAL SIMULATION:** (contra bonum sacramenti: intention against permanence) excluding an essential element or property of marriage.

**Pet Resp F. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- grew up with the belief that divorce was an acceptable alternative to unhappiness in marriage;
- felt that divorce was a tolerable alternative to a lifelong unhappy marriage;
- felt that we could divorce in certain circumstances, such as adultery;
- felt that we would remain married as long as our love lasted.

**Canon 1102: CONDITION:** By placing a condition a person withholds consent. In such a situation, the person values the condition more than marriage itself. This person believe that without the presence of this condition, there is no marriage. (e.g. I marry you on the condition that this marriage is fulfilling to me, or I marry you on the condition that you will never be unfaithful to me.)

**Pet Resp G. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- intended to be married only for as long as we felt we could be fulfilled;
- intended to be married only as long as we would be financially provided for in the marriage;
- intended to be married only for as long as some condition was true (e.g., virginity, education, social status, family involvement, freedom from alcoholism, freedom from physical abuse, ability to have children, etc.);
- intended to be married only as long as there was no infidelity.

**Canon 1103: FORCE OR FEAR:** Force refers to external physical or moral coercion which cannot be resisted. Fear refers to persistent anxiety which is the result of impending danger or evil produced by physical or moral force. The fear must be grave, imposed from outside the person, and must be the cause of the marriage.

**Pet Resp H. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- believed that because we were sexually active with each other, marriage was inevitable;
- believed that because of parental objection(s) to our living together, marriage was the only alternative;
- was afraid NOT to get married, for one reason or another;
- decided to marry in order to avoid the displeasure of a person important to our situation;
- was threatened with physical violence or pervasive emotional abuse that caused him/her to feel pressured into consenting to marriag;
- feared the public shame of having a child out of wedlock.

**Canon 1096: IGNORANCE:** Ignorance is a lack of knowledge about something. Minimally, both parties must understand that marriage involves a permanent self-sacrificing community of life for the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children.

**Pet Resp I. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- mistakenly believed that the other party was someone, or something, that he/she was not;
- did not understand that marriage could only be dissolved by the death of the spouse;
- did not understand that marriage imposed an obligation of absolute fidelity on both parties;
- did not understand that one of the primary purposes of marriage was the bearing and educating of children;
- did not understand that marriage involved the care of one's spouse;
- did not know or understand that marriage is not only a civil contract but also a spiritual union.

**Canon 1098: FRAUD:** This refers to a deliberate act of deception by which a person hides a significant quality from the other party in order to induce that person to marry. This quality must be capable of disrupting married life.

**Pet Resp J. At the time of our wedding, one or both of us:**

- deceived the other about the real reason for marrying;
- withheld information about having children prior to marriage;
- concealed something that the other had a right to know because there would have been no wedding if it were known;
- found out something vital about the other party after our wedding, which, if known before the wedding, would have stopped the wedding from taking place;
- kept something secret before the wedding that later became disruptive to married life;
- was gravely ill and knowingly withheld that information;
- was incarcerated prior to marrying and willfully withheld that information from the other;
- simulated a commitment to the faith (pretended they were interested in sharing their faith to entice the other into marriage).

The following questions apply if a civil wedding took place prior to the Catholic wedding. The ceremony may have been referred to also as “convalidation” or a “blessing” in the Catholic Church.

**K. At the time of our marriage, one or both of us felt that our marriage in the Church was:**

**Pet Resp**

- a Catholic recognition of civil marriage ceremony that took place outside the Catholic Church;
- the first genuine and true marriage between myself and the respondent;
- a blessing by the Catholic Church of an already genuine and true marriage;
- a religious ceremony required by the Catholic Church for official recognition of the “marital union” between myself and the Respondent for the purpose of restoring the Catholic party to full communion;
- something that was unnecessary, but that we went through for some other reason (e.g., to get our child baptized, to satisfy our parents, etc.).

**SECTION E**

Future marriage

26. Are you presently civilly married? \_\_\_\_\_ Or are you planning marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

***If both answers to this question are NO, go to section F.***

27. LEGAL name (before marriage) of your *present/intended* marital partner:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Maiden Name): \_\_\_\_\_

28. Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

29. PRESENT religious affiliation of your *present/intended* partner: \_\_\_\_\_

30. If you are PRESENTLY civilly married, please indicate:

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Church / Court / etc. City / County / State*

31. Was your *present/intended* marital partner ever married to another person (even if only civilly)?

BEFORE marrying you? \_\_\_\_\_ ***If NO, go to Section F.*** If YES, number of times: \_\_\_\_\_

32. Was (Were) the marriage(s) declared invalid by the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** *If no ecclesiastical annulment was received for any previous marriages of your present/intended spouse or they were not terminated by death, a Declaration of Nullity by the Catholic Church will be needed. Please consult with the Tribunal staff.*

33. Are you or your partner enrolled in RCIA? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**SECTION F**

35. Are there any exceptional circumstances or situations involved with this case of which you feel the Tribunal staff should be aware? If YES, briefly describe them: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mental Health Information**

36. Have either you or your former spouse had professional counseling?  Yes  No  
Was the counseling for you or your former spouse? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was/were the underlying issues? \_\_\_\_\_

Please be aware that if there was professional counseling, this information is very important to the Tribunal.

Are you able to provide counseling records to the Tribunal?  Yes  No

Would you be willing to obtain and sign a "Release of Information" form from your health care provider so that you could share documentation with the Tribunal?  Yes  No

Do you have access to any written documentation of your former spouses professional counseling?  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest, Deacon or Pastoral Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Priest, Deacon or Pastoral Administrator

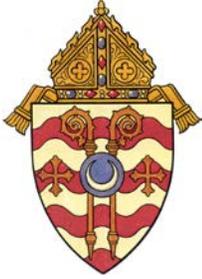
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**The following documents WILL BE REQUIRED. Please obtain them prior to sending in the application and attach them to this application:**

- **Baptismal Certificate of the Catholic party.**
- **Marriage Certificate (NOT the Marriage License). Marriage Certificates may be obtained in the State of Minnesota by visiting: [www.moms.mn.gov](http://www.moms.mn.gov)**
- **Complete Divorce Decree.**
- **Any professional counseling records you have available.**

**Return this application and the required documentation to:**  
 Marriage Tribunal  
 Diocese of Crookston  
 P.O. Box 610  
 Crookston, MN 56716



Office of the Tribunal  
Diocese of Crookston  
P. O. Box 610  
Crookston, MN 56716

**Libellus**

I petition the Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Crookston for a Declaration of Invalidity, in accordance with the laws of the Roman Catholic Church, regarding the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on the grounds of:

because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To establish these grounds I will offer a history of the relationship and I will provide the names and current addresses of two to three witnesses familiar with me and or my former spouse at the time of consent.

**Petitioner:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

**Petitioner:**  
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Respondent:**  
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

**DECREE**

**Communication of the *libellus* to the Defender of the Bond and, if necessary, to the Respondent.**

In accordance with the prescriptions of Canon 1676 § 1, I hereby order that the *libellus* be communicated to the Defender of the Bond and, if necessary, to the Respondent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Very Rev. Joseph Richards, JCL  
Judicial Vicar

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary