



## Application for a Declaration of Nullity

Dear Petitioner,

The following pages will walk you through the application to begin the process for a possible Declaration of Nullity. Read each section carefully and follow the instructions. Please fill out each section with as much information and detail as possible. If you would like assistance with this application please do not hesitate to reach out to the Tribunal by calling 414-769-3305 or e-mailing [tribunal@archmil.org](mailto:tribunal@archmil.org). One of our staff members will be happy to walk you through the process and answer any questions you may have.

If you would like to fill out and submit this application online, please visit [tinyurl.com/mke-application](http://tinyurl.com/mke-application)

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### Part I - Basic Information

*This first section of the application provides Tribunal staff with basic contact information for you (the Petitioner) and your former civil spouse (the Respondent). Under canon law (the law of the Catholic Church), your former civil spouse has a right to be informed of the proceedings and participate if he or she wishes. **You must provide a current mailing address for them and your application may be delayed if you do not.** The Tribunal also recognizes that these are sensitive issues and the confidentiality of current contact information or other special circumstances can be discussed with your Advocate as the case moves forward.*

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#### Petitioner's (Your) Information

**Name:**

Prefix

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

**Maiden Name**

(If Applicable)

**Gender**

Male

Female

**Date of Birth**

**Location of Birth:**

City & State

**Mother:**

Name & Religion

**Father:**

Name & Religion

**Current Address**

Street Address

City, State, Zip

**Primary Phone Number**

**Work Phone Number**

**E-mail Address**

**Baptism**

Church

City & State

**Religion**

At time of Marriage

Current (if different)

If you changed religions, when did that occur and what denomination did you join?

Present parish (if Catholic)

**The Tribunal’s default method of contact is mail through the United States Post Office. If you would like to receive some or all of your communication via email, please indicate that here:**

I wish to receive all communication via hard copy in the mail

I wish to receive my testimony questionnaire via email to type my answers

I wish to receive all communication via email

**Is there a Church Official Assisting you with this Application?**

Please indicate their name and Parish

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**Respondent's (Your Former Civil Spouse's) Information**

**Name**

Prefix                      First Name                      Middle Name                      Last Name

**Maiden Name**

(if Applicable)

**Gender**

Male

Female

**Date of Birth**

**Location of Birth**

City & State

**Mother:**

Name & Religion

**Father:**

Name & Religion

**Current Address**

Street Address

City, State, Zip

**Primary Phone Number**

**Work Phone Number**

**E-mail Address**

**Baptism**

Church

City & State

**Religion**

At time of Marriage

Current (if different)

If your former civil spouse changed religions, when did that occur and what denomination did they join?

Present parish (if Catholic)

**Did you tell your former civil spouse about your decision to ask for this Church process?**

Yes

No

**If Yes, what was their reaction?**

**Part II: Information about the Marriage and Divorce**

*This section will ask about dates, locations, and other information relating to your marriage and divorce. Please note that the Church Declaration of Nullity process will not begin until a civil divorce has been obtained. Additionally, you are asked to include copies of your marriage license and divorce decree with this application. A checklist of the required documents is included on the final page of this application.*

**Wedding**

**Date**

**Church or Other Venue**

**Officiant**

**Location**

Name

City & State

**Ages on Day of the Wedding**

Petitioner

Respondent

**Catholic Ceremony/Convalidation Information**

**Was either party Catholic at the time of the marriage?**

Yes

No

**Did the Marriage take place outside of the Catholic Church?**

Yes

No

N/A - Neither party was Catholic

**If you had a Catholic ceremony (Convalidation) later, please provide details about the ceremony including the date, location, and officiant:**

## **Marriage**

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**Was this the first marriage for you or your former civil spouse? Whether in church, civilly, or by common law. If no, please list any other marriages for you or your former civil spouse, including the date and religion of each former spouse.**

**Did you and your former civil spouse live together prior to marriage? If so, for how long?**

**Did anything unusual occur on the wedding day?**

**Important Dates - please indicate approximate date or length in years & months**

**When did the two of you first meet?**

**How soon after meeting did you begin to date?**

**How long did you date before the engagement?**

**How long were you engaged before the wedding?**

**In total, how long were you married?**

## **Children**

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**How many children were born or adopted before and/or during this marriage and what are their birthdates?**

**Are all moral and civil obligations (such as child support, co-parenting, etc.) being met towards any minor children?**

## **Divorce**

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**Explain any separations before the final one (with approximate dates). Why did you get back together each time?**

**When did the final separation occur?**

Month & Year

**Civil Dissolution Date**

**Location**

**Grounds Cited (if any)**

County & State

**Part III: Characteristics of the Relationship**

*This section will ask you about personal traits of the parties that may have affected the dynamics of the relationship. Please check the box of any statement that applies to you or your former civil spouse and **provide an explanation with as much detail as possible.***

*You will have an opportunity to answer more in-depth questions at a later date, but these responses will assist the Tribunal in determining the best way to move your case forward.*

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**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A**

**struggled with irritability, instability, arguing, or breakups during our courtship.**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A**

**struggled with the effects of an unplanned pregnancy during our courtship.**



**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A**  
**struggled with the effects of drug or alcohol dependency during our courtship and/or marriage**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A**  
**struggled with the effects of psychological or emotional problems during our courtship and/or marriage. (i.e. depression, anxiety, mood swings, etc.)**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A**  
**was unfaithful during our courtship and/or marriage.**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A**  
**would have considered divorce under certain circumstances (i.e. infidelity, impotence, lack of security, etc.)**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A  
put conditions on our marriage ("I'll only marry you if...").**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A  
did not want or plan on having children during the marriage.**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A  
have struggled with sexual orientation or gender identity.**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A  
have been the victim of abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, or emotional.**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A  
was afraid to go through with the wedding because of some external factor. (i.e. familial  
pressure, financial expectations, etc.)**

**I and/or my former civil spouse N/A  
hid some detail/quality that would have affected the decision to marry.**

**Are there any other details about the marriage that you would like to add?**

## **Part IV: Witness Information**

*In this section we ask for information on witnesses who can give testimony about your marriage. Good witness testimony is crucial in presenting a successful case. The most helpful witnesses are those who knew the couple during their courtship and engagement as well as during their marriage. Please contact your witnesses to ask them if they would be willing to provide testimony and inform them that the Tribunal will be contacting them. The expedient return of testimony from witnesses helps your case move along.*

***Please list a minimum of three witnesses.***

Witness testimony is mailed to each individual. If your witness would prefer testimony emailed to him or her instead, please provide an email address and check box if appropriate.

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### **Witness #1**

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Relationship

E-mail Address

E-mail Testimony to this Witness

### **Witness #2**

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Relationship

E-mail Address

E-mail Testimony to this Witness

### **Witness #3**

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Relationship

E-mail Address

E-mail Testimony to this Witness

### **Witness #4**

Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Relationship

E-mail Address

E-mail Testimony to this Witness

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## Part V: Concluding Information

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Were there any attempts at marital or psychological counseling? If so, please give the names and addresses of the counselors or therapists. Their opinions and observations may be helpful in our deliberations. If it is determined that these observations may be useful, you will be asked to sign a release for these records.

Are there any considerations that you would like the Tribunal to take into account as this process begins? For example, confidentiality of present address, appointment times, need for translators, etc.

### Documents Required for Submission:

*Below you will find a checklist of documents that must accompany your application. Applications can be e-mailed to [tribunal@archmil.org](mailto:tribunal@archmil.org) or mailed to:  
Metropolitan Tribunal P.O. Box 070912 Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912*

*In addition, a \$50 filing fee is due at the time of submission and is applied as a credit towards your case processing fee. A check can be mailed to the above address or online payment can be made by going to [www.tinyurl.com/milwaukeeetribunal](http://www.tinyurl.com/milwaukeeetribunal). When paying online, please put your last name and "Application fee" in the case number field. Thank you!*

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Statement of Intent

Statement of Intent

Statement of Intent

Statement of Intent

Civil Divorce (copy)

Church Certificate of Marriage

\$50 filing fee

## **Part VI: Oath & Petition**

*Please read the following petition carefully and completely. By signing this document you are consenting to all its contents. When this petition and all accompanying documents are received by the Metropolitan Tribunal, processing of your case can begin. Please note, returning an unsigned/ undated application will delay the processing of your case.*

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After careful thought and reflection, I believe that my marriage to

(the Respondent) is null insofar as the Catholic Church understands marriage. I, therefore, petition the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to declare the nullity of my marriage.

I contend that the marriage is null as a result of a defect in the consent of either the Respondent or myself. In support of this contention I offer the testimony that I will give as well as that of witnesses I have named in this application and other relevant evidence that may come to light.

The addresses of both the Respondent and myself are given on this application. **By virtue of my signature affixed below (please check the box next to each statement):**

I agree to, and mandate, whomsoever the Tribunal may appoint as my Procurator-Advocate and authorize him/her to do all that is necessary in my interest.

I understand that my former spouse may be made aware of the general content of my application and that my former spouse might be allowed to exercise the right, provided in Church law, to review my testimony.

I understand that professional counseling or special instructions may be mandated before permission to remarry will be granted. I further understand that all financial obligations, if any, imposed on me by the civil courts toward my former spouse and children must be current before I can remarry.

**I understand that I may not set a date for any future marriage** until, and only if, a declaration of nullity, without restriction, is given. I understand that no priest, deacon, or parish director may provide me with even a tentative date for a future wedding in the Catholic Church until this process has been completed.

I understand that I will be assessed a processing fee for the handling of this case regardless of its outcome. If necessary, I will make appropriate arrangements with the Judicial Vicar in light of my circumstances.

I testify that I am presenting this case in good faith and I am fully committed to this process. The statements in this application are true and complete. I agree to cooperate fully with the Tribunal and to be bound by the policies established by that Office in accordance with the law of the Church.

Signature of the Applicant (Petitioner)

Date