

**DIOCESAN TRIBUNAL
49 ELM STREET
WORCESTER, MA 01609
508-791-7171**

APPLICATION FOR ECCLESIASTICAL INVESTIGATION OF VALIDITY OF MARRIAGE
Please PRINT or TYPE and answer ALL questions completely

Name of Party Petitioning: _____

Information regarding the Petitioner

Present Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone – Home: _____ Work: _____

Date & Place of Birth: _____

Date & Place of Baptism: _____

Religious Affiliation: _____

Present Parish: _____

Occupation: _____

Mother's Name & Address: _____

Father's Name & Address: _____

Information regarding the Respondent

Present Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone – Home: _____ Work: _____

Date & Place of Birth: _____

Date & Place of Baptism: _____

Religious Affiliation: _____

Present Parish: _____

Occupation: _____

Mother's Name & Address: _____

Father's Name & Address: _____

Information regarding the Petitioner and the Respondent

Date & Place of Marriage: _____

By Whom: Circle one: Priest Minister Justice of the Peace

Age at time of marriage: Petitioner: _____ Respondent: _____

How many children were born of this marriage: _____ Present ages: _____

How long did the marriage last: _____

Date & Place of Divorce: _____

Who has custody of the children: Petitioner _____ Respondent: _____

Have **YOU** remarried: ____ Date & Place: _____

By Whom: Circle one: Priest Minister Justice of the Peace

Religion of Present Spouse: _____ Religion of his/her former spouse: _____

I. BACKGROUND and PERSONALITIES of PETITIONER and RESPONDENT

1.) **DESCRIBE IN DETAIL** your personality and character **PRIOR** to marriage: (Relationships with friends, any problems with work, alcohol, drugs, etc. **Traits:** e.g., outgoing, moody, sensitive, selfish, jealous, etc. **Maturity:** education and number of jobs since graduation.)

2.) **DESCRIBE** your family background. (Relationship with parents, their relationship with each other, number of siblings (your position), any problems, and religious dimension.)

3.) **DESCRIBE IN DETAIL** the personality and character of your former spouse **PRIOR** to marriage. (Relationships with friends, any problems with work, alcohol, drugs, etc. **Traits:** e.g., outgoing, moody, sensitive, selfish, jealous, etc. **Maturity:** education and number of jobs since graduation.)

4.) **DESCRIBE** the family background of your former spouse. (Relationship with parents, their relationship with each other, number of siblings (his/her position), any problems, and religious dimension.)

II. COURTSHIP

- 5.)
- (a) Was this your first relationship?
 - (b) Why were you attracted to your former spouse?
 - (c) How long did you keep company prior to marriage? Describe the dating period.
 - (d) Did one or both of you date others?
 - (e) Was there a formal engagement? How long?
 - (f) Were there any traits you questioned, but put aside as due to immaturity? Did you believe that these would change after marriage? Please explain in detail.

6.) What was the attitude of each of your parents toward the marriage? If any of the parents were opposed, please explain. What was the attitude of your closest friends towards the marriage? Did they mention to you any concerns or reservations they had to your choice of spouse?

7.) Was this the first marriage for both of you? If not, give details of the previous one.

8.) Was there evidence of serious emotional instability or disorder, mental illness, bizarre behavior or sexual deviation in yours or your former spouse's background (childhood or adolescence), during the courtship or after marriage? If so, describe the general nature of such and did either party receive therapy or counseling?

III. MARRIAGE INTENTION

- | | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|------------|-----------|
| 9.) Did you marry freely and without reservation? If no, please explain. | _____ | _____ |
| 10.) Did you intend it to be a permanent marriage? | _____ | _____ |
| 11.) Did either of you have any hesitation in entering into the marriage?
If answer is yes, please explain. | _____ | _____ |
| 12.) Did both of you intend to have children? If answer is no, please explain. | _____ | _____ |
| 13.) Were there any unusual circumstances that prompted this marriage to
take place? Please explain, e.g., pregnancy, illness, desire to "get out of
the house", etc. | _____ | _____ |
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IV. WEDDING and HONEYMOON

- 14.) Were there any unusual circumstances concerning the wedding day? (At the rehearsal, church or reception)?
- 15.) Was there a honeymoon? _____ How long? _____
- 16.) Did anything unusual happen during this time?

V. MARRIED LIFE

- 17.) (a) **DESCRIBE IN DETAIL** what your married life was like, starting from the beginning of the marriage. What were the attitudes of each of you in terms of work, responsibilities, alcohol, drugs, use of money, use of free time and behavior towards children? How was your communication with one another and did any physical or emotional abuse take place?

(USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS OF PAPER WHEN NECESSARY)

(b) Please indicate if you felt alone in this marriage? Were you respected? Were you made to feel inferior?

(c) During the marriage how was your communication? Could you state your opinion? Did you need to be careful about what you said? Did you not speak in order to keep peace? Were words used to “put you down”?

18.) Were you faithful to one another?

19.) What is your opinion as to why your marriage failed?

20.) If anyone was consulted concerning marital difficulties, give **FULL NAMES AND ADDRESSES** of doctors, counselors, institutions. Also give the **YEAR** in which they were consulted. Indicate who attended the counseling? **Petitioner**_____ **Respondent**_____ **Both**_____

V. **PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES**

21.) Please give some information concerning the history of **YOURSELF** since the divorce.

22.) Please give some information concerning the history of your **FORMER SPOUSE** since the divorce.

VII. WITNESSES

23.) List the **COMPLETE NAMES and ADDRESSES** of at least **FOUR WITNESSES** who are willing and able to testify concerning the marriage by filling out a questionnaire. These witnesses must be people who knew you and your former spouse prior to and during the marriage, such as: parents, siblings, friends. (Please **DO NOT** use children born of this marriage as witnesses).

PLEASE NOTE: Church Law requires that allegations be proven, not only by the parties involved, but also by the testimony of reliable witnesses.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

I, the undersigned, testify that I am presenting this case in good Faith and that the statements herein are, to the best of my knowledge, the truth, so help me God.

DATE: _____

Signature of Petitioner

DOCUMENTS NEEDED:

- 1. **RECENT** Baptismal Certificate
- 2. Marriage Certificate (If Church marriage, get Church record; if Civil marriage, get civil record.)
- 3. **FINAL/ABSOLUTE** divorce decree

Signature of Priest/Deacon (if assistance was needed in completing this form).

Priest/Deacon Address

Priest/Deacon Telephone Number

SEAL: