

Help carry one another's burdens,
in that way you will fulfill



THE TRIBUNAL
DIOCESE OF PATERSON
777 VALLEY ROAD
CLIFTON, N.J. 07013

(973) 777-8818

PETITION FOR AN ECCLESIASTICAL ANNULMENT

Name _____ Age _____
(If woman, please give maiden name as well as present legal name)

Address _____ Phone _____

Occupation _____ SS #: _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Religion _____ Are you baptized? Yes No

Date and place of Baptism _____
Date Church City State

If non-Catholic, please supply a copy of your baptismal certificate.

REGARDING YOUR PREVIOUS MARRIAGE

1. Name of person you married _____ Age _____
(If woman, please give maiden name as well as present legal name)

2. His/her present address (**MUST** be supplied) _____
Occupation _____ SS #: _____ Phone _____

3. What is the religion of your former spouse? _____
Was he/she baptized? _____ Yes _____ No

4. If so, when and where? _____

5. When did your previous marriage take place? _____

6. Where did it take place? _____
(Church, city & state)

7. How old were both you at the time of marriage? _____

8. How long was the dating period? _____

9. Were there any major problems during the date period? _____

Help carry one another's burdens,
in that way you will fulfill



THE TRIBUNAL
DIOCESE OF PATERSON
777 VALLEY ROAD
CLIFTON, N.J. 07013

(973) 777-8818

10. How many children were born of this union? _____

11. Were they any separation during the marriage? _____

12. Are you now living apart? _____

13. Date of final separation? _____

14. In your own words, explain in detail why the marriage failed: _____

15. Has either party to the marriage ever sought or obtained professional help, psychiatric or psychological before, during or after the marriage? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, which party? _____

16. Has a civil divorce or annulment been obtained? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, which? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

On what grounds? _____

17. Keeping in mind that an ecclesiastical annulment means the marriage was invalid from the beginning and, therefore, never a sacramental union in God's sight, do you think the Catholic Church should annul your marriage? _____ Yes _____ No

18. Was the marriage in question contracted freely and with mutual love? _____ Yes _____ No

If not, please explain in detail, giving circumstances leading up to the marriage _____

19. Was there any force or fear used by anyone (threats, physical harm, etc.) to make either party marry? _____ Yes _____ No

Please explain in detail _____

Help carry one another's burdens,
in that way you will fulfill



THE TRIBUNAL
DIOCESE OF PATERSON
777 VALLEY ROAD
CLIFTON, N.J. 07013

(973) 777-8818

20. In contracting this marriage, did you and your spouse intend a permanent, lifelong union, binding until death? _____ Yes _____ No

21. In contracting this marriage, did either party have any serious doubts about its successful and happy outcome? _____ Yes _____ No

Please explain in detail

22. Was there an agreement, or unilateral intention, about getting a divorce if the marriage proved unhappy? _____ Yes _____ No

Was this agreement made prior to the marriage? _____ Yes _____ No

23. Did either of you make any statements shortly after the marriage about a divorce? _____ Yes _____ No

24. In entering the marriage did you both intend to have children? _____ Yes _____ No

25. Prior to the marriage, did either of you state that you would not have children? _____

Was the exclusion to be temporary or permanent? _____

What was the reason given for excluding children? _____

26. Was anything said or done after the marriage to indicate that either of you did not intend to have children?

27. In entering the marriage, did you both intend to be sexually faithful only to each other for life? _____

28. Prior to the marriage, did either of you lay down some condition: for example, "I will only if, or provided that." If so, please explain fully _____

29. Have you entered into a new marriage? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, please give the following information:

Name of the person you married _____

Date of marriage _____ Place _____

Officiant _____

Was your present spouse ever married before? _____

Help carry one another's burdens,
in that way you will fulfill



THE TRIBUNAL
DIOCESE OF PATERSON
777 VALLEY ROAD
CLIFTON, N.J. 07013

(973) 777-8818

30. Have you previously presented a petition for annulment to this Tribunal or any other Tribunal?

_____ Yes _____ No

If so, please given the approximate date and name of the Tribunal _____

31. IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY

Please include along with this petition the following information.

- a.) A detailed account of your relationship with your spouse, prior to the marriage (especially the engagement period) during marriage and up to and including the final separation. Include all facts, however insignificant. The Tribunal has outlines available for a detailed history if you did not receive one with this petition. This history should be typed or clearly written double-spaced.
- b.) Have this petition signed by your referring priest.
- c.) Include divorce decree and supply copies of the full Acts of the divorce proceedings if it was contested, or if you feel it would be helpful.
- d.) Names and addresses of any and all persons who can act as witnesses or shed light on your presentation of the facts. These witnesses can be members of your family.

32. Do you swear to the truth of all your statements?

_____ Yes _____ No

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Referred by _____

Once this petition is received and accepted by the Tribunal, you will received a formal acknowledgement. We suggest that you continue to consult your referring priest about any questions concerning this matter. All contacts with the Tribunal with regard to your case must be made in writing in order to safeguard confidentiality and to provide a written record for the Acts of the case.

GUIDE TO BE FOLLOWED FOR DETAILED HISTORY

(Complete both sides)

- ◆ **One words answers are NOT acceptable.**
- ◆ **Please be explicit in all your answers.**
- ◆ **Where answer is “No,” please explain positive attitudes.**

A. **BACKGROUND OF EACH PARTY:**

1) **For myself:**

- a. Describe the character of each parents and your estimate of who was the dominant one in the house.
- b. The relationship among brothers and sisters.
- c. Account of school life and grades.
- d. Religious practice
- e. Ease of making and keeping friends
- f. Medical history
- g. Unusual fears in childhood or later
- h. History of dating and whether any earlier serious romance, and if so, why terminated.
- i. History of attitude toward sex and any problems
- j. Long range goals or lived only for the moment
- k. Work record - dependable, responsible
- l. Any problems with gambling, drugs, alcohol, handling money, save money regularly or spend foolishly
- m. An evaluation of strong and weak areas of own personality, inferiority complex, sensitive to needs of others, nervous, quick-tempered, moody, jealous, selfish, ungrateful, lie habitually, cheat habitually
- n. Was conduct erratic and unpredictable, often outlandish and fanatic?
- o. Lack good judgment in everyday situations, give examples.

- 2) **For Former Spouse:** cover same points as above
(from your own knowledge, without consulting your former spouse)

B. **COURTSHIP**

- a. Detail length - how you met
- b. Frequency and kinds of dates
- c. Sources of attraction
- d. Any problems in dating
- e. Whether relationship ever end and why
- f. How topic of marriage arose
- g. Part that each played in wedding preparations
- h. Reaction o each family to wedding plans
- i. Usual pressure to marry
- j. Attitude and use of sex during courtship
- k. Any reluctance to marry; attitude of each to fidelity in marriage
- l. Attitude of each to permanence of marriage
- m. Attitude of each to divorce
- n. Attitude of each to children

C. **WEDDING AND HONEYMOON:**

- a. Attitude of each at Church and reception
- b. Any unusual incidents on the wedding day
- c. Where and how long was the honeymoon
- d. Was the honeymoon a pleasant experience
- e. When was the marriage consummated
- f. Use of sexing the entire marriage and sensitivity of each other's needs

D. **MARRIED LIFE:**

- a. Length of marriage
- b. Attitude of each to work and responsibilities
- c. Attitude to children
- d. Physical or emotional mistreatment
- e. Use of free time
- f. Part parents played in marriage
- g. Use of money, alcohol, gambling
- h. When did problems arise and over what
- i. Use of professional help
- j. Any earlier separations - cause of them and why you came back together

E. **FINAL SEPARATION:**

- a. What cause it
- b. Any attempts at reconciliation
- c. Possibility of reunion
- d. Has either party remarried

F. **PSYCHIATRIC CARE:**

If either party had psychiatric care, give the names and addresses of the psychiatrists and the approximate dates and the number of times the psychiatrists were consulted: diagnosis.

G. **WITNESSES:**

Give names and addresses of witnesses who would know both parties and have an opinion as to why the marriage did not work out.