



## ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE

### ARCHDIOCESAN TRIBUNAL

225 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2409  
Phone: (907) 297-7724 Fax: (907) 297-7764  
tribunal@caa-ak.org

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## PETITION FOR A CHURCH DECLARATION OF NULLITY

DISTRIBUTE WITH THE TRIBUNAL BROCHURE "DECLARING A MARRIAGE NULL"

Dear Petitioner:

Enclosed, you will find an outline of information needed by the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Anchorage to begin the process of reviewing a marriage for a possible declaration of nullity. Please note the following instructions:

1. Complete every question. Make sure facts and dates are as accurate as possible. Throughout this form the **PETITIONER is you**. The section entitled **RESPONDENT** is for information regarding **your former spouse**.
2. In order to expedite your case, copies of your civil marriage certificates and civil divorce should accompany this application. The Clerk of Courts requires the civil case number for a proper search for these documents. Please **do not** submit any information to our office until your civil divorce is granted. All applications submitted without necessary documentation will be returned.
3. **All** former marriages must be considered. Therefore, if you have been married more than once, a separate application form must be submitted for **each** previous marriage. (This would not be necessary if your former spouse(s) is/are deceased.)
4. It is necessary that you provide a current address for your former spouse if at all possible. Church law requires us to contact your former spouse and offer him/her a chance to participate in the review process.
5. In preparing your statement, please be aware that the Tribunal keeps all information received in this investigation as confidential as possible within the confines of Church law. But understand that this law allows that both parties at least be made aware of the general allegations put forth by the other in reference to the marriage. This information is communicated only according to the discretion of the judge.
6. In submitting this application, keep in mind that there are **no civil effects** to a Church declaration. This process pertains to Church matters only. Thus children of the marriage are considered legitimate.
7. Provision of Church law, which must be observed, govern this judicial process. The average case takes approximately one year from the acceptance of the petition.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask your parish priest, deacon, parish director, or procurator. You may also call the Tribunal at the number listed above. Please mail this completed petition to us at the address above.

Yours in Christ,  
THE TRIBUNAL STAFF

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

**PETITIONER** (Your Information)

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last (Current) Maiden name, if applicable

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing City State Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work Cellular

Private E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church of Baptism City State

Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion (at time of marriage): \_\_\_\_\_

Present Parish (if Catholic): \_\_\_\_\_

If you have changed religion, when did this occur: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONDENT** (YOUR EX-SPOUSE'S INFORMATION - SOME TYPE OF CONTACT INFORMATION IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY)

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last (Current) Maiden name, if applicable

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing City State Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work Cellular

Private E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church of Baptism City State

Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion (at time of marriage): \_\_\_\_\_

Present Parish (if Catholic): \_\_\_\_\_

If he/she has changed religion, when did this occur: \_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU APPROACHED ANY PARISH OFFICIAL FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS APPLICATION?**  Yes  No

**IF YES, WHO?**

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## MARRIAGE

Wedding: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Name of church or other location

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officiant City State

If either party was Catholic, did this marriage take place outside the Catholic Church?  Yes  No

If so, was there a Catholic Ceremony later?  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officiant Church City State

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## CHILDREN BORN OR ADOPTED IN THIS MARRIAGE

Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
How many? Birthdates

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## DIVORCE

Civil Dissolution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Borough / County State

Grounds cited in civil divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEFLY ANSWER EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WITH TWO OR THREE SENTENCES.  
THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE HERE IS USED FOR THE INITIAL EVALUATION OF YOUR CASE.  
YOUR INTERVIEW AT THE TRIBUNAL WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO GIVE MORE DETAILS.

## INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

1. Was this your first marriage (whether in church, civilly, or by common law)? Please list any other marriages and/or any plans to marry, including wedding date and religion of each spouse. (USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED.)
  
2. Was this your spouse's first marriage (whether in church, civilly, or by common law)? If not, please list your former spouse's marriages prior to the marriage in question, including wedding dates and religion of each former spouse.
  
3. After reviewing the booklet you received (entitled "Declaring a Marriage Null"), which of the examples for nullity do you see as applying to your case? Or any other grounds, not listed? Explain why you chose these grounds.

## **FACTS**

### 1. Dates and time spans:

- a. When did the two of you first meet? (approximate date)
- b. How soon after meeting did you begin to date?
- c. How long did you date before the engagement? (years & months)
- d. How long were you engaged before the wedding? (years & months)

### 2. Characteristics of the Courtship and Engagement:

- a. Describe any problems during the courtship and engagement such as instability, arguing, breakups, drug/alcohol abuse, or premarital pregnancy, etc.
- b. Describe any psychological or emotional problems.
- c. Describe any indications that you, or your ex-spouse, might be unfaithful after the wedding.
- d. As you look back, describe any circumstances under which either, or both, of you would have considered divorce. (For example: infidelity, impotence, lack of security, etc.)

- e. Describe any conditions either of you might have required to get married or to stay in marriage. (For example: "I'll marry you only if .....")
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- f. Describe the attitude each of you had toward having children in the marriage.

3. Wedding: Ages on day of the wedding:      Petitioner:\_\_\_\_\_ Respondent\_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe anything unusual or abnormal that happened on the wedding day, during the ceremony, reception, or honeymoon.

5. Marriage:

- a. When did problems begin in the marriage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What were the problems and what caused them?

6. Separation:

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

b. When (month and year) and why did the final separation occur?

7. Conclusion:

a. Are all moral and civil obligations, including child support, being met by both of you? If not, describe briefly.

b. Did you tell your former spouse about your plan to ask for this Church process? If so, how did he/she react?

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**COUNSELING**

If there were any attempts at marital or psychological counseling, please give the **names and addresses** of the counselors or therapists. The opinions and observations of counselors may be helpful in our deliberations. If so, you will be asked to sign a release for these records. (USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED.)

## WITNESSES

A marriage nullity case cannot be processed without witnesses. Please list a **minimum of three witnesses** whom you feel would have valuable information about your courtship and marriage and are willing to share that information with the Tribunal. Please contact each person you name and inform them that they will be contacted by the Tribunal by mail; however, do not tell them how to respond to the questionnaire.

For each witness, indicate whether a relative (i.e. mother, brother, sister-in-law), friend, or acquaintance of the petitioner or respondent.

<p>Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss (circle one)</p> <p>1. _____ Name</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mailing Address</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City State / Zip</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Relationship to Petitioner / Respondent</p>	<p>Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss (circle one)</p> <p>2. _____ Name</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mailing Address</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City State / Zip</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Relationship to Peitioner / Respondent</p>
<p>Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss (circle one)</p> <p>3. _____ Name</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mailing Address</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City State / Zip</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Relationship to Petitioner / Respondent</p>	<p>Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss (circle one)</p> <p>4. _____ Name</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Mailing Address</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City State / Zip</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Relationship to Petitioner / Respondent</p>

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## OTHER EVIDENCE

Include with your application any other pertinent evidence to support your petition. These should include letters, police reports, videotapes of the wedding day, or any other documents.

**COPIES OF THE CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE, FINAL DIVORCE DECREE, AND NEWLY ISSUED BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.**

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## SPECIAL REQUESTS OR INSTRUCTIONS

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

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 ACCEPTED  
BY THE ARCHDIOCESAN TRIBUNAL, THE PROCESSING OF YOUR CASE CAN BEGIN.

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## FORMAL PETITION

After careful thought and reflection, and after reviewing the materials provided to me, 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 Anchorage to declare the nullity of that 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:

1. I agree to whomsoever the Tribunal may appoint as my Procurator-Advocate (unless I have chosen one for myself from the list of approved procurators) and authorize him/her to do all that is necessary in my interest.
2. I understand that my former spouse may be made aware of the general content of my application, and that my former spouse will also be allowed to exercise the right provided in Church Law to review my testimony if he/she chooses to do so.
3. 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 imposed on me by the civil courts toward my former spouse and children, if any, must be current before I can remarry.
4. **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 marriage preparation for a wedding can not be initiated until this process is complete.
5. I understand that **I will be assessed a processing fee** for the handling of this case regardless of its outcome. One half of the amount must be submitted with the petition. If necessary, I will make appropriate arrangements with the Judicial Vicar in light of my circumstances (see extra sheet for the processing fee structure).

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.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of the Petitioner: \_\_\_\_\_



*Archdiocese of Anchorage*  
**OFFICE OF THE TRIBUNAL**  
225 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2409  
(907) 297-7724

**Tribunal Documents and Fees Requested**  
**(Effective July 1, 2008)**

There are five (5) types of petitions handled by the Tribunal. It has been determined from the information provided that your case involves a Formal Petition of Nullity. The total fee for processing this type of petition is \$400.00. The actual expense to the Tribunal amounts to more than twice the fee requested.

Please indicate below the payment schedule of your choice.

- \_\_\_\_\_ My check for \$400.00 is enclosed for payment in full.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My check for the \$200.00 filing fee is enclosed. I will pay the remaining \$200.00 when a decision is given by the Tribunal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My check for \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. I will pay the remainder at \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_\_ months.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain).

I understand that this fee may be paid at the outset, during the process, or after a decision is given. I also understand that **the payment, or an inability to pay, in no way influences the process or the Decision.**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

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I am now sending to the Tribunal:

- \_\_\_\_\_ the signed and dated Petition Form
- \_\_\_\_\_ the requested records (Baptism/Marriage/Civil Divorce)
- \_\_\_\_\_ the filing fee/partial fee/total processing fee as stated above.