

GUIDELINE FOR PREPARING YOUR PETITION

In order for us to begin an investigation of the possible religious invalidity of your previous marriage, we ask you to do a number of things. We ask that you obtain the required documents, and that you complete the entire 9-page petition. Everything for or about which we ask is pertinent and important to your case.

A declaration of invalidity by the Catholic Church does not deny that a marital relationship existed, nor does it imply that the relationship was entered into with ill will or moral fault. Rather it is a statement by the Catholic Church that the relationship lacked, at least, one of the elements considered to be essential for a binding sacramental union. Obviously, this declaration has no civil or legal effects in the U.S.A. It also does not have any bearing on any civil divorce proceedings, nor does it make any statement whatsoever about the legitimacy of any children born of that union. A declaration of invalidity means only that a previous marriage is not an obstacle to either party marrying again in a Catholic Church ceremony.

It is important that you read the questionnaire thoroughly before making any attempt to answer the questions. Remember, the basis for a decree of invalidity must have been present *from the very beginning* of the marriage. It is not our purpose to point fingers or to find moral fault with either spouse, but only to learn the truth of what happened in the marriage.

The focus of the investigation is on the consent exchanged on the day of the wedding. We are most concerned with the freedom of you and your former spouse at that time. Other factors to consider are the intentions of either or both of you regarding the permanency of marriage, infidelity, and openness to children. Any of these, or any other psychological factors, e.g. immaturity of judgment, or psychiatric illness, could affect the ability of one or both of you from forming the type of stable, permanent relationship which the Church associates with a matrimonial covenant or from fulfilling the obligations of marriage. (On **page 12**, you are asked to give reasons why you think your marriage should be declared invalid. Then please re-read this paragraph and indicate any of the factors (See **pages 4 & 5**) that may have affected you or your former spouse's decision-making process at the time.

On **page 6**, you are required to give the complete address of your former spouse. This is very important. In the interest of justice and fair play, your former spouse enjoys the right to be informed of the petition, the basis for the petition, and to participate in the proceeding, among other rights. If for some reason you cannot provide this information, please explain the reason why you are unable to do so. You must also provide the Tribunal with a statement detailing the efforts you have done to locate your former spouse from the time you started the paperwork for annulment. This form is on **pages 16-17**. Not having a valid and correct address for the respondent or a satisfactory explanation will delay the processing and, in some cases even prevent the acceptance of your petition. (If all else fails, the Tribunal will place an announcement in a newspaper of general circulation that your former spouse cannot be located. Anyone who knows his/her whereabouts is invited to inform the person or the Tribunal.)

The witness list on **pages 13 & 14**, asks for the names and addresses of four people who knew either or both of you at the time of the marriage. It is obviously important that the witness list be as accurate as you can possibly make it. Choose witnesses who are knowledgeable about you and/or your former spouse. It is good to have a mix of family members/relatives and friends. It is important to include friends because they are oftentimes more objective and less likely to be biased. It is your responsibility to remind your witnesses to reply promptly so as not to cause unnecessary delays in processing your case.

An ecclesiastical marriage investigation, admittedly, is a very involved and sometimes emotionally trying process for the parties. It is our hope that it not be adversarial. We seek to do everything that we possibly can, to make the process as easy as can reasonably be expected for the persons involved. You can be assured that, because of the confidential nature of this process, only the two parties to the marriage can possibly request information from the Tribunal about the proceedings. Please check the Diocese of Gary website for more information: <http://www.dcgary.org>

May God's compassion and peace enfold you as you begin to prepare your petition.

Revised 2008

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

The nullity process cannot begin until all completed forms are received. The completed petition and documents should be returned within thirty (30) days of their receipt, if you received a packet from the Tribunal. If you foresee a delay or have any questions, please call the Tribunal. The following is a checklist of documents you are required to submit to the Tribunal:

1) PETITION (9 pages) : Answer all the questions completely and explain “yes” or “no” answers. The questions may help to guide you in your reflection and preparation. If your marriage was “blessed” in the Church, focus your attention to the relationship between the civil wedding and the Church wedding.

2) CIVIL DOCUMENTS:

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE or LICENSE: May be obtained by mail or in person. Call the county Clerk office where you were married for information. In the state of Indiana, the **MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE & LICENSE** are in one document. [NOTE: This is required if your marriage was not celebrated in a Catholic Church from the beginning.]

DIVORCE DECREE - A copy of the complete Divorce Decree, including the Property Settlement, Child Custody and the Dissolution Decree, etc.; copies may be obtained as above.

3) CHURCH DOCUMENTS:

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES - A recent (within the last six months) Baptismal certificate, certified (not a copy), with notations on the back, is required for all Catholic parties and may be obtained by contacting the Church of Baptism. Please ask the church secretary to include with the certificate, all notations in the Baptismal Record regarding marriages, annulments, etc. If you do not know where you or your ex-Spouse were baptized, you may secure this Information from the Catholic Church where the marriage took place.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE - A certificate is required for all Catholic parties and may be obtained by contacting the Catholic Church where the marriage took place. Please ask the secretary to include any dispensations granted for this marriage. If you were married in a civil ceremony, or in a church other than a Catholic Church, this information will be on the marriage license

4) FINANCIAL ADVISORY FORM: Kindly mark your choice of payment, sign, date and return with the rest of the documents.

Please make a photocopy of everything you submit to the Tribunal for your record, in case there are problems with mailing.

TO PROTECT AND ENSURE THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE INVESTIGATION, NEVER E-MAIL ANY DOCUMENTS TO THE TRIBUNAL. E-MAILED DOCUMENTS WILL BE REJECTED. It is advisable also that you call the Tribunal instead of sending e-mails so as not to jeopardize the confidentiality of personal information you may wish to discuss.

PETITIONER: _____ RESPONDENT: _____

POLICY OF THE TRIBUNAL

The proceedings of the Matrimonial Tribunal are exclusively religious in nature. The purpose of this investigation is to determine the status of the parties in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church, and their freedom from previous matrimonial bond. It is our desire that the proceedings not be an adversary encounter but a healing experience conducted in a spirit of compassion.

The sensitive nature of the information gathered in this process requires that such information be considered the exclusive property of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Gary. It may be disclosed only to those authorized persons or other ecclesiastical tribunals whom the Gary Tribunal finds necessary for the resolution of the case.

As in accord with Canon 1598, when all of the evidence has been assembled, the judge may permit the plaintiff and/or the respondent to inspect the documents of the case at the Tribunal office.

Tribunal proceedings have no effect in civil law, nor do they affect the legitimacy of any children born of the union being considered. The information gathered in such investigations is not made available to anyone acting in a civil proceeding.

*** Please note that annulment proceedings usually take a minimum of eighteen months. Neither party involved is free to set any date for a wedding in the Catholic Church before these proceedings are completed. Should either of the parties set any wedding date the Tribunal will not be held bound to accommodate that date.

AFFIDAVIT

I have read the above policy of the Tribunal and I understand it. I agree to cooperate and to be bound by the policy.

I further swear that the testimony I have submitted is the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

Signature of Petitioner/Respondent

Signature of Priest, Minister, Notary

Church/Place

Date
(seal)

FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN CHOOSING GROUNDS FOR YOUR PETITION

There are very limited grounds for considering the validity of marriage. To assist you in preparing your petition, particularly in looking for grounds, consider the following situations/circumstances which may be present at the time of courtship, at the beginning of marriage and throughout the marriage. Again, the Tribunal is not concerned with finding moral fault, but of learning the truth about the marital dynamic. Use these pages as your guide in giving the ground(s) on **page 12**.

- _____ Were there children born during the marriage? If there were no children in the marriage, it is important for the Tribunal to know why no children were born. Did either or both of you exclude the possibility of having children during the marriage, or decide to delay having children indefinitely, or was there consistent use of birth control (or abortion) to prevent pregnancy? In such instances, you could write, "exclusion of child birth during the marriage."
- _____ Was there premarital pregnancy? Did the premarital pregnancy affect you or your former spouse's decision to marry? Did either or both of you feel pressure to marry because of the very pregnancy? Pressure may be internal, e.g. guilt, shame, sense of obligation, etc., or it may be external, e.g. pressure from family members or clergy. Write "pressure of premarital pregnancy" if such was a serious or significant factor in the decision to marry.
- _____ Was there infidelity in the marriage? This is not a ground but...if one or both of you considered the marriage as "open" to other sexual partners, you could write "exclusion of fidelity or of faithfulness." It is important that you describe when the infidelity started, whether it was from the time of courtship, whether infidelity was on the part of both parties, and whether the infidelity or unfaithfulness was habitual or not, or if it involved one or multiple partners.
- _____ Were either or both of you very young and immature at the time of marriage? Immaturity is not a ground for invalidity of marriage, but it is necessary in order to marry validly that both parties are capable of making a mature decision about marriage considering its importance and the fact that the commitment required is life-changing and permanent. If either or both of you were not able to make such a serious decision at the time, or seriously misunderstood what marriage was all about and the responsibilities that go with it, or lacked a basic knowledge of one another at the time of consent, write "serious lack of capacity to make a mature decision."
- _____ Did psychological or psychiatric illness affect the marriage? Marriage is life-changing and the person marrying must be capable of the commitment of marriage, as spouse and parent. You could write "serious psychiatric or psychological illness prevented the fulfillment of basic obligations of marriage" if such was a significant factor or issue in the marriage. A history of the illness is important.
- _____ Was deception a factor in this marriage? If you or your former spouse entered this marriage because of a lie, or if something significant was intentionally concealed by one party in order to convince the other to marry him/her, you could write "Deception or fraud led to the marriage."
- _____ Was there significant alcohol or drug use during the marriage? Alcohol or drug abuse can prevent someone from fulfilling the obligations of marriage, or prevent someone from making sound and mature decisions. If there was alcohol or drug usage before and during the marriage, write "alcohol/drug use/abuse or addiction prevented (you and/or your former spouse) from fulfilling the basic obligations of marriage" or, "from making a sound and prudent decision at the time of the marriage." It is important to include a history of substance abuse and a description of its severity.
- _____ Did either or both of you have a divorce mentality and considered divorce an option for an unhappy marriage, or considered the marital bond cut off by divorce? A divorce mentality is not a ground *per se*, but if either of you always considered divorce and remarriage as an acceptable "way out" for an unhappy marriage, especially if there was unfaithfulness, abuse, etc., you could write "exclusion of the permanence of marriage."

- _____ Did either or both parties enter the marriage against his/her will? If either party entered the marriage out of force or fear (including a deep-seated fear [reverential fear] of displeasing someone important in one's life such as parents or clergy), write "force or fear to marry."
- _____ Did either of you *not* intend to marry at all? There are instances when couples go through the marriage ceremony – legal or religious – without the intention of establishing a true marriage but for some monetary, immigration, or insurance reasons. In other words, it was a sham marriage. If this was the situation when you married, write "simulation of marriage for purposes."
- _____ Was either party excessively self-centered at the time of the marriage? Marriage is an equal partnership of life established for the good of one another. Love, respect, honor, etc. are to be mutually given and received. If one or both was too selfish and completely ignored the other's needs and thought only of one's self-interests, you could write "intention against the good of the spouse." The degree of selfish behavior and insensitivity to the other must be that it was beyond normal. Recall what you or your former spouse's priorities were at the time. It is important to include whether or not this was present prior to the marriage, and how soon this behavior became a problem in the marriage.
- _____ Was there physical abuse or serious verbal or emotional abuse? If either spouse inflicted physical, verbal or emotional abuse upon his/her spouse, or the children, it may have been rooted in a family history of abuse, or on one's inability to manage/handle stress and conflict in an appropriate way, or from some emotional illness. It is important that you describe the behavior, indicate whether abusive behavior was present before the marriage, how early it began during the marriage, and what effect the abuse had on the marital relationship, and on the children.
- _____ Was there serious inability to communicate between the spouses? Marriage necessarily involves communicating effectively. Were either of you seriously lacking the ability for effective communication, particularly in the areas of problems-solving and conflict management? Was there a lot of "shoving problems under the rug" or silent treatments or constant and relentless bickering between the parties? Write "serious inability to communicate" if either or both of you were unable to communicate on any but the most basic level or to resolve conflict, indicate whether this situation was present before the marriage and how it affected the marriage.
- _____ Was there something you did not know about the other spouse at the time of the marriage? If there was something important or significant that you did not know about your former spouse – or that your former spouse did not know about you – at the time of the marriage, and which was very important in considering or choosing a spouse, you may write "error of quality of a person." This quality must be very important that had you (or your former spouse) known it before the marriage, there would probably not have been a wedding at all.
- _____ Was homosexuality an issue in the marriage? Homosexuality is not a ground for invalidity in itself. However, one's confusion over sexuality, self-identity or self-image can interfere with marital relationship and marital intimacy. It is important to include whether or not homosexual feelings or confusion about one's sexuality was present prior to marriage, how soon it manifested during the marriage, and whether it was a significant factor in the marriage breaking down. Write "incapacity to fulfill spousal obligations of intimacy due to homosexuality" if it was a factor.
- _____ Was the marriage convalidated or "blessed" in the Catholic Church? The marriage of a Catholic in a non-Catholic ceremony without permission or dispensation from the Catholic Church is not valid in the eyes of the Catholic Church. Oftentimes the Catholic party later asks a priest or deacon to convalidate or "bless" the marriage in a new ceremony. The Catholic Church considers convalidation as a new marriage, not just a blessing of an existing marriage. If your marriage was convalidated or "blessed" in the Catholic Church, but you did not consider it as a new marriage or a new consent, and considered the non-Catholic ceremony as the real marriage, you could write "invalid convalidation" or "grave failure to consider the convalidation as the real marriage."

Case No. _____

PETITION FOR ANNULMENT

In accord with canon 1674, 1º, I hereby request the Diocese of Gary, Indiana to declare invalid my marriage to my former spouse. In support of this request, I am submitting the following information regarding our respective family background, dating/courtship, the marriage itself, the separation and divorce. I understand that this is a court of law and I swear to tell the truth.

PETITIONER: _____
(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (PRESENT LAST) (MAIDEN)

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail: (optional) _____ Occupation: _____

Date, place & country of birth: _____

Baptized? _____ Religion: _____ Do you practice your religion? _____

Place of Baptism: _____
(CHURCH) (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

NOTE: If you were baptized non-Catholic and had made the Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church, indicate below when and where you made the Profession of Faith.

(DATE) (CHURCH) (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

RESPONDENT: _____
(Ex-spouse) FIRST) (MIDDLE) (PRESENT LAST) (MAIDEN)

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail: (optional) _____ Occupation: _____

Date & Place of Birth: _____

Baptized? _____ Catholic? _____ Other: _____

Place of Baptism: _____
(CHURCH) (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

NOTE: If the Respondent was baptized non-Catholic and had made the Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church, indicate when and where he/she made the Profession of Faith. _____

(DATE) (CHURCH) (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

When (date), where (place/city/state) and how (circumstance/event) did you meet each other?

How old were you _____ and your former spouse (Respondent) _____ when you started dating?

When did the courtship/dating actually begin? _____

Was the relationship exclusive from the start? If not, when did it become exclusive? _____

If you had an engagement, when did you get engaged and how long was the engagement period?

Describe and explain what the relationship was like during courtship and engagement: Examples: fun, stormy, smooth, sexual, superficial, one-sided, off and on, etc. _____

Was the engagement ever broken? If yes, by whom, why, and how did you get back together? _____

Did you live together prior to getting married? If yes, indicate how long you lived together before the marriage. _____

What doubts or reservations did either party have about getting married and how were these resolved? Explain if some family members, relatives or friends on either or both sides entertained some doubts and reservations about this marriage also. _____

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

Date of marriage: _____ Name of Officiant: _____

Place of marriage: _____
(CHURCH) (CITY/STATE/ZIP)

NOTE: If you married **civily or had a non-Catholic wedding** prior to the marriage being "**blessed**" in the Catholic Church, give the date, place and the name of the official who assisted at the civil/non-Catholic wedding: Date & place of wedding: _____

Name of Officiant: _____

If at least one party is Catholic and the wedding was celebrated in a non-Catholic or non-denominational place without the assistance of a Catholic priest or deacon, did the Catholic party ask permission or dispensation from the Catholic Church? Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____
Specify: _____

List the names and birth dates of each child. If **no children were born** of this marriage, please use the space below to explain why.

Describe the marital relationship including marital problems and when problems began: _____

Did you individually and/or as a couple receive counseling during the marriage or after the divorce? If yes, give complete names, addresses and phone numbers of the counselors and the approximate dates during which the counseling took place:

Number of separation(s) during marriage: _____ Date of first separation: _____

Length of each separation/s (day/ weeks/months/years) _____

Date of final separation: _____ Date of divorce: _____

Court: _____

MARITAL HISTORY OF THE PARTIES

PETITIONER: Is this your **FIRST marriage?** _____ If not, what number is it? _____

List **all other weddings** in which you were a bride or a groom **BEFORE** you married the Respondent, and indicate the number for each wedding. [**DO NOT REPEAT THIS WEDDING UNDER CONSIDERATION**].

Wedding No. _____ **Date of Wedding:** _____ **Place:** _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

HAD THIS SPOUSE BEEN MARRIED PREVIOUSLY? _____ Yes _____ No

Was this person baptized? _____ What Religion? _____

Wedding No. _____ **Date of Wedding:** _____ **Place:** _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

HAD THIS SPOUSE BEEN MARRIED PREVIOUSLY? _____ Yes _____ No

Was this person baptized? _____ What Religion? _____

Wedding No. _____ **Date of Wedding:** _____ **Place:** _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

HAD THIS SPOUSE BEEN MARRIED PREVIOUSLY? _____ Yes _____ No

Was this person baptized? _____ What Religion? _____

HOW MANY TIMES SINCE YOUR DIVORCE HAVE YOU REMARRIED? _____

When did you remarry? _____

Spouse: _____

(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (PRESENT LAST) (MAIDEN)

Has your present spouse ever been baptized? _____ If yes, in what Faith? _____

Date and place of baptism: _____

Has your present spouse ever been married before? _____ To whom? _____

Present address: _____

Has this person ever been baptized? _____ If yes, in what Faith? _____

Date and place of baptism: _____

Was your present spouse's previous marriage ever been declared invalid by a Tribunal?

Did your present spouse have anything to do with your divorce? _____ If yes, please give details:

IF YOU HAVE NOT REMARRIED, ARE YOU CONTEMPLATING OR PLANNING A FUTURE MARRIAGE? IF YES, GIVE DETAILS: _____

Party's Name: _____ Baptized? _____

What Religion? _____ Date and Place of Baptism: _____

Did he/she have anything to do with your divorce? _____ If yes, give details: _____

Was this person you are contemplating marriage married **BEFORE**? _____ If yes, to whom: _____

Was that party baptized? _____ If yes, in what Faith? _____

Was this person's previous marriage ever been declared null by a Tribunal? _____

Specify: _____

*****RESPONDENT:** Was this his/her **FIRST** marriage? _____ If not, what number is it? _____

List **all other weddings** in which Respondent was a bride or groom **BEFORE** you married each other and indicate the number for each wedding. [**DO NOT REPEAT THIS WEDDING UNDER CONSIDERATION**].

Wedding No. _____ **Date of Wedding:** _____ **Place:** _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

HAD THIS SPOUSE BEEN MARRIED PREVIOUSLY? _____ Yes _____ No

Was this person baptized? _____ What Religion? _____

Wedding No. _____ **Date of Wedding:** _____ **Place:** _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

HAD THIS SPOUSE BEEN MARRIED PREVIOUSLY? _____ Yes _____ No

Was this person baptized? _____ What Religion? _____

Wedding No. _____ Date of Wedding: _____ Place: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

HAD THIS SPOUSE BEEN MARRIED PREVIOUSLY? _____ Yes _____ No

Was this person baptized? _____ What Religion? _____

HOW MANY TIMES SINCE THE DIVORCE HAS RESPONDENT REMARRIED? _____

When did the Respondent remarry? _____

Did the person the Respondent married have anything to do with your divorce? _____ If yes, please give details: _____

PETITIONER: _____

GIVE YOUR REASON(S) WHY YOU BELIEVE YOUR MARRIAGE TO THE RESPONDENT IS INVALID *FROM THE VERY BEGINNING* AND SHOULD BE DECLARED SO BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. [Review the guideline for preparing the petition and the checklist of factors to consider in choosing grounds on pages 4 & 5.]

The Tribunal will normally send a copy of this page to the respondent.

I am petitioning the Diocese of Gary to declare my marriage with (insert name of your former spouse)

(FIRST)

(MIDDLE)

(LAST)

(MAIDEN)

to have been null from the very beginning for the following reasons:

I name the following witnesses who are knowledgeable about the above-described circumstances or grounds upon which I base this petition, and who are willing to offer testimony.

Witness 1: _____

Witness 2: _____

Witness 3: _____

Witness 4: _____

PETITIONER: _____

I understand that witnesses must be able to verify the facts pertinent to this marriage. I hereby submit to the Tribunal a list of reliable witnesses, who, I believe, best know the facts of this marriage, including our family backgrounds, the circumstances of our courtship, motives for marriage, etc.

Name of Witness: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Address: _____

Telephone/cell/email: _____

Did this witness know you and/or your former spouse at the time of the marriage?

What will this witness testify to in general? _____

Name of Witness: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Address: _____

Telephone/cell/email: _____

Did this witness know you and/or your former spouse at the time of the marriage?

What will this witness testify to in general? _____

Name of Witness: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Address: _____

Telephone/cell/email: _____

Did this witness know you and/or your former spouse at the time of the marriage?

What will this witness testify to in general? _____

Name of Witness: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Address: _____

Telephone/cell/email: _____

Did this witness know you and/or your former spouse at the time of the marriage?

What will this witness testify to in general? _____

PETITIONER: _____

Have you ever submitted a similar petition to any ecclesiastical Tribunal? If so, give details:

As God is my witness, I swear that everything I have written in this judicial deposition/ declaration is true and correct.

Date

Petitioner

Date

Priest/Minister/Deacon/Notary

Place

Seal

PETITIONER: _____

FINANCIAL ADVISORY

The plaintiff in a marriage nullity case pays the cost of processing the case. At present, that cost is \$500.00. This amount covers only a fraction of the operating expenses and the rest is subsidized by the faithful of the Diocese of Gary. If a psychological evaluation is required in your case, the fee for this service will be set by the provider and will be your responsibility. If a Court Expert review is required, the fee for this service will also be your responsibility. Should there be problems in locating the Respondent, any expense(s) incurred by the Tribunal to publish his name in the newspaper(s) would be added on to the fees also.

Inability to pay the cost in no way delays or alters the processing of any case. Should you find it impossible to make the total payment in this case, you are requested to put in writing a brief explanation of the reasons and indicate the amount you feel you are able to pay. (See No. 3 below)

Please complete and return the **FINANCIAL ADVISORY FORM**.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY FORM FOR FORMAL NULLITY CASES

To the Tribunal of the Diocese of Gary:

I, the undersigned, have carefully considered the payment of fees for the formal nullity process. In response, I advise the Tribunal:

- 1. _____ I will submit a \$100.00 deposit with the application. I will pay a total of \$500.00 to cover the cost of processing my case. (\$100.00 deposit plus \$400.00 balance)
- 2. _____ I am unable to pay the \$100.00 deposit at this time. I will pay the \$100.00 deposit within 60 days of this date and then continue to make **monthly payments** until the case fee of \$500.00 is paid in full.
- 3. _____ I agree to pay any additional fees for a psychological expert review if required.
- 4. _____ I agree to pay any additional fees for the purpose of locating my former spouse.
- 5. _____ I am unable to pay the \$500.00. I will pay \$_____. (When a reduction of the minimal request of \$500.00 is sought, the detailed reasons must be given on a separate sheet of paper.)
- 6. _____ I am able to pay an additional amount of \$_____ to help defray the cost of those unable to pay.

Date

Signature of Petitioner

PETITIONER: _____

PROOF OF EFFORTS DONE TO LOCATE THE FORMER SPOUSE

The Tribunal requires from the Petitioner seeking a declaration of invalidity of marriage adequate proof that diligent efforts had been exerted to locate the Respondent. He/she must satisfy the Tribunal that such efforts are sincere and adequate. In some cases it may not be possible to accept the case without a complete current address for the respondent. **It is your responsibility to provide complete documentation for all searches and investigations.**

RESPONDENT: _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN

Has the Respondent used any other names, e.g. nicknames, former names, maiden names or aliases? If so, please list all other known names of the Respondent: _____

Where was the Respondent's place of birth? _____

Do any of his parents or other relatives still live there? If yes, who? _____

Have you tried contacting any of his/her relatives (parents, siblings, etc.)? If yes, please list the names of and addresses of any of his relatives/siblings/friends that you contacted for help in locating the Respondent: _____

When and where was your last personal contact with the Respondent? _____

Did you ever have contact with the Respondent by phone, email or letter at any time after your last personal contact? _____ If yes, what was the reason for that contact? _____

What was the Respondent's last known address, telephone number (home & work) and e-mail address? _____

What was the Respondent's last known place of employment? Give complete address of his/her last known employment, including telephone number and e-mail: _____

Did you try locating the Respondent using his/her Social Security # (see bank, credit card, financial, tax, insurance, work or military records)? _____

If you have minor children, how is he/she exercising visitation rights and fulfilling other parental obligations? Explain fully. _____

If you have adult children, explain why they could not provide you with an address for the Respondent? _____

Please list all the names & contact information for relatives, in-laws, mutual friends, co-workers or former neighbors you contacted: _____

Please list all the names & contact information for lawyers, investigators or other professionals that you enlisted for help: _____

Please list all on-line search engines & paid services you enlisted to locate the Respondent and attach a report or copy of the results of any web or online searches that you have done.) _____

Please list in detail what other efforts you have made to locate the Respondent's current address, including cities/towns for which you looked in phone books or used directory assistance: _____

When were these attempts to locate the Respondent started? _____

When were these attempts to locate the Respondent ended? _____

As God is my witness, I swear that I have completed all of the above-requirements to locate my former spouse. I further attest that everything I have said is true and correct. If necessary, I hereby authorize the Tribunal to publish his/her name in a newspaper of general circulation for the purpose of locating the Respondent. I fully agree that expenses for publication will be added to the fees.

Date

Petitioner

Date

Priest/Deacon/Minister/Notary

Place

Seal