

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR  
MATRIMONIAL TRIBUNAL DEPARTMENT

**PETITION FOR A CHURCH DECLARATION OF INVALIDITY**

Dear Petitioner,

This is an outline of information needed by the Diocese of Superior to begin the process of reviewing a marriage for a possible declaration of invalidity. Please be sure to check with your priest or the Tribunal Office to determine if a formal case is needed in your particular situation.

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. Copies of your civil marriage certificate and civil divorce are required.
3. Please do not submit any information to our office until your civil divorce is granted.
4. 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. Please note that this would not be necessary if your former spouse(s) is/are deceased.
5. It is necessary that you provide a current address for your former spouse. Church law requires us to contact your former spouse and inform him/her of the process and chance to participate in this process.
6. In preparing the petition, please be aware that the Tribunal keeps all information received in this study as confidential.
7. In submitting this application, please keep in mind that there are **no civil effects** to a church declaration. This process pertains to Church matters only.
8. Provisions of Church law, which must be observed, govern this judicial process. The Tribunal staff meets once a month to officially open cases and an average case takes approximately eight months to one year from the filing of the petition.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Tribunal Office at (715) 394-0209. Please mail the completed petition to us at the address below.

Yours in Christ,

The Tribunal Staff  
Diocese of Superior  
PO Box 969

**APPLICATION FOR FORMAL DECLARATION OF NULLITY**

**PETITIONER INFORMATION:**

Present Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Birth Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Were you baptized at the time of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, Denomination/Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

If you were not Catholic at the time of this marriage, have you converted to Catholicism? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, when and where did you make your Profession of Faith/RCIA: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Please list the birth name of all former spouses</u>	<u>Wedding Date</u>	<u>Date of Divorce or Death</u> (please indicate which)
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_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
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**RESPONDENT INFORMATION:**

Present Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Birth Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Was he/she baptized at the time of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, Denomination/Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

If he/she was not Catholic at the time of this marriage, has he/she converted to Catholicism? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, when and where did she/he make their Profession of Faith/RCIA: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the birth name of all former spouses      Wedding Date      Date of Divorce or Death  
(please indicate which)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **WEDDING INFORMATION**

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Court: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Was your wedding validated or “blessed” by the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

If so when: \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Age at the time of Marriage: Petitioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Courtship: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Engagement: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Divorce Date/County/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want an annulment? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which Priest/Parish are you working with? \_\_\_\_\_

If you intend to marry in the Catholic Church, or are already married and want your marriage validated, please provide the name of your intended/current spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Is she/he Catholic? \_\_\_\_\_ Has he/she been previously married? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please provide the following information:

Please list the birth name of former spouses      Wedding Date      Date of Divorce or Death  
(please indicate which)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did she/he receive a Declaration of Nullity for these marriages? \_\_\_\_\_

## MATRIMONIAL TRIBUNAL

Dear Petitioner,

The Diocese of Superior requires a \$200 fee to process a formal annulment case. The cost of processing a formal case through the tribunal is significantly high and a payment of \$200 only covers some of the cost for your specific case. The list below provides payment options for you.

No one is deprived of services because of an inability to pay.

Sincerely,

Patti J. Holt  
Procurator/Advocate  
(715) 394-0209

Please fill out the form below:

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Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

I will include the \$200 payment with my petition.

I would like to set up payment arrangements.

I will pay \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months until I reach the total due of \$200.

I would like to be contacted by someone from the tribunal office to discuss this issue further.

## FORMAL ANNULMENT PETITION

### \*Petitioner

### \*Respondent

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St. Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St. Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please indicate maiden name in addition to current legal name**

Documents Needed:

- Baptismal Certificate for **both** parties **if Catholic**
- Marriage License/Certificate
- Divorce Judgment
- Name and address of both parties
- Name and addresses of **THREE** witnesses to be contacted by the tribunal (relatives, friends, or those who are acquainted with the facts of the marriage in question and will be able to offer insights into the marriage from the start and beyond. These people should be willing witnesses)

Note: If you do not have enough room for all of your answers, feel free to use additional sheets.

**Statement of Petition:**

*Use maiden names or names on the marriage certificate.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ a baptized \_\_\_\_\_, petition the

Matrimonial Tribunal of the Diocese of Superior for an annulment of my marriage with

\_\_\_\_\_, a baptized \_\_\_\_\_.

Please indicate if either party was un-baptized at the time of the wedding \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I am seeking an annulment for the following reasons:**

**I believe my marriage was lacking from the beginning and/or during the marriage in the following ways:**

**Background Information:**

Please give information about upbringing, family life, educational opportunities, abilities and shortcomings, particular problems related to family and relationships, dating, health, counseling, etc.)

**Petitioner:**

**Respondent:**







12. Give a description of your wedding day and especially any unusual happenings on that day that may have caused problems in the relationship.

13. Please describe your feelings on the day of the wedding (happiness, joy, depression, regret). Give reasons for these feelings.

14. If you went on a honeymoon, for how long was the honeymoon? Describe any unusual circumstances during this time. Give examples of any difficulties that you may have experienced at that time.



18. What was your communication level? How did you approach decisions or problems?

19. What was your degree of bonding or sharing as a couple? Comment on your ability to share on an emotional level with each other.

20. During the marriage were there any problems with the use of drugs or alcohol? If so, to what extent and how did it influence your marriage? At what point in the marriage did this begin?

21. If infidelity was a problem, when did involvement in inappropriate relationships begin?

22. What was the importance of sexual expression in your marriage and the sensitivity to each other's needs?

**Separation Information:**

23. When in the marriage did problems first arise? What was the nature of the problems?

24. Describe any separations that took place and reasons for a separation.

25. How did your marriage end? Describe circumstances.

26. What is the present lifestyle of your ex-spouse (has there been a remarriage, etc?)

27. Please describe your present lifestyle (has there been a remarriage or plans to marry again?)

**Here, the testimony is reviewed:**

**Please add anything you wish to further show that your marriage with your ex-spouse was lacking from the beginning. Examples may be why you were not able to bond as a couple, or how you were incapable of a permanent marriage commitment to one another.**

**OATH**

**I have told the truth as best as I know it.** \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

**Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone number where I can be reached: \_\_\_\_\_**

## WITNESSES

Witness testimony is extremely important. Relatives or friends who are acquainted with the facts of the marriage including facts about the courtship, the wedding and early days of the marriage tend to be most helpful. It is suggested that you contact them before we do, so that you know they are willing to participate. We request THREE witnesses, with complete addresses. **Please write clearly.**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ How you know them: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ How you know them: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ How you know them: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed application and petition to:**

**Matrimonial Tribunal Department  
Diocese of Superior  
1201 Hughitt Ave.  
P.O. Box 969  
Superior, WI 54880**

**If you have any questions please feel free to call our office at (715)394-0209 and speak to Patti Holt, Procurator/Advocate.**

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR  
MATRIMONIAL TRIBUNAL DEPARTMENT

The Declaration of Nullity Process (Annulment Process) respects the dignity and importance of the sacrament of marriage as reflected in the teaching and law of the Church. Even when a marriage ends in a civil divorce, the Church still believes a sacrament or natural bond is present that does not end with divorce. Every marriage is presumed valid until proven otherwise by a competent Church Tribunal. When a sacramental or natural bond of marriage exists, the parties are not free to marry in the Catholic Church. It is out of respect for the sacrament of marriage that wedding dates cannot be set unless two people are free to marry. This is the policy of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Superior.

Because of the fundamental nature of marriage being a sign of God's everlasting and unconditional love for His people, this process should not be taken lightly. Since those who are in a sacramental or natural bond of marriage are not free to marry, **NO WEDDING DATES SHOULD BE SET** until they are free to marry in the Catholic Church. Therefore, unless this process is completed and a Declaration of Nullity is granted, and unless there are no further impediments to marriage, a wedding date cannot be set.

There are no guarantees given by the Tribunal as to how long a case may take to complete. This is determined by the cooperation of both parties and witnesses, and the caseload at the Tribunal. There are no guarantees that a case will warrant a Declaration of Nullity because the presumption of validity must be overturned in each case. Also, the Tribunal may find that a person needs extensive personal counseling before he or she is ready to celebrate a marriage in the Church. It is because of these uncertainties that the Tribunal cannot make any promises or guarantees regarding when a case will be finished and what outcome will prevail. The Tribunal is aware of the time it takes to review a case and it is doing everything it can to complete cases in a timely manner.

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By my signature below, I attest that I have read and that I understand the Tribunal's policy on setting wedding dates. I understand that no one can promise or guarantee that a case will be completed and/or affirmed by a certain date.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place