



*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."* Heb. 13:8

## Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Metropolitan Tribunal

Dear Friend in Christ,

Initiating a canonical process to determine the sacramental validity of a prior marriage is not an easy step to take. That's why I want to assure you at the outset that the entire staff of the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is determined to afford you the highest level of canonical services executed with the greatest of personal concern. We work in concert with your pastor and his parish staff so that together, from start to finish, you have both the canonical and pastoral care you need as you undergo this most serious of endeavors. To that end, I encourage you to meet with your priest, deacon or tribunal parish liaison to assist you with preparing your application and to answer any preliminary questions. They will help you take the following necessary steps to begin this process:

1. Complete the *Application for the Introduction of a Canonical Trial* (page 2-5).
2. Write a personal history (page 6).
3. Obtain baptismal certificates dated within the last six months (not copies of original baptismal certificates) for both yourself and your prior spouse. Information about the church of baptism can often be obtained from the church where the wedding occurred.
4. Obtain a copy of the religious certificate of marriage, or a civil certificate if this is not available.
5. Obtain a copy of a complete divorce decree that is dated and signed by the judge.

You may include a statement from the interested priest, deacon or parish liaison that describes his/her impressions of your character, sense of responsibility, and religious practice, or any other information that may be pertinent to the marriage in question (page 5).

***Please understand that no arrangements for a future marriage should be made before the completion of this process and any potential counseling requirements.***

Upon receipt of your completed application, the Metropolitan Tribunal will contact you to set up an interview and begin the process. Due to the real expenses involved in supporting the work of the Metropolitan Tribunal, we ask that you, as the Petitioner, be responsible for a fee of \$600.00. This fee only partially meets the expenses of the case. The Metropolitan Tribunal will never deny you our services, however, due to an inability to pay. We will work with you to make other mutually agreeable arrangements.

Again, know of our prayers as you take this important step of healing and reconciliation to ascertain the truth of your prior marriage. If you have any questions, please contact the Metropolitan Tribunal office at 651. 291. 4466. We are very happy to be of service to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Christopher J. Beaudet, JCD  
Vicar Judicial  
Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis



# Application for the Introduction of a Canonical Trial

METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

328 West Kellogg Boulevard Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-1997

Telephone: 651-291-4466 Fax: 651-291-4467 Email: tribunal@archspm.org Web: www.archspm.org/tribunal

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_ PR Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Both parties have a natural right to know about this study. The Tribunal will contact the Respondent.**

Have you advised your former spouse that you are requesting this study? Please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Is your former spouse willing to share his/her insights with the Tribunal? Please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

### A. Petitioner Information (Please PRINT)

Complete Birth Name			Date of Birth
Complete Current Name			Religion of Baptism
Current Street Address			Current Religion
City	State	Zip	Place of Employment
Home Phone	Work Phone		Cell Phone
Preferred Phone Number		Email	

### B. Respondent Information

Complete Birth Name			Date of Birth
Complete Current Name			Religion of Baptism
Current Street Address			Current Religion
City	State	Zip	Place of Employment
Home Phone	Work Phone		Cell Phone
Preferred Phone Number		Email	

### C. Dating and Engagement

When did you start dating each other?	Did you date regularly?
Was there a formal engagement?	When did this occur?
Please briefly state any unusual circumstances involving your dating and engagement, if any:	

**D. Marriage and Divorce**

Place where Wedding Occurred (Name of Church)			Date of Wedding
City	State	Petitioner's Age at Wedding	Respondent's Age at Wedding
Number of Children Born in this Marriage	Baptized in which Religion?		Raised in which Religion?
When Did You Separate Permanently?	When was the Civil Divorce Granted?		County and State

**E. Other Marriages**

The Catholic Church presumes all marriages are valid. Have either you or your spouse contracted any other marriages at any time, either before or after this marriage, either civil or religious? Please indicate:      YES      NO

If **NO**, please turn to page 4. If **YES**, please complete this section for all marriages contracted by both Petitioner and Respondent. Please include any additional marriages on a separate piece of paper. Then turn to page 4.

Party Involved in the Marriage (Petitioner or Respondent)				Name of Spouse		Religion of Spouse	
Date of Marriage		Religious or Civil?		Date of Divorce (If Applicable)		Is the Spouse Still Alive?	
Party Involved in the Marriage (Petitioner or Respondent)				Name of Spouse		Religion of Spouse	
Date of Marriage		Religious or Civil?		Date of Divorce (If Applicable)		Is the Spouse Still Alive?	
Party Involved in the Marriage (Petitioner or Respondent)				Name of Spouse		Religion of Spouse	
Date of Marriage		Religious or Civil?		Date of Divorce (If Applicable)		Is the Spouse Still Alive?	
Party Involved in the Marriage (Petitioner or Respondent)				Name of Spouse		Religion of Spouse	
Date of Marriage		Religious or Civil?		Date of Divorce (If Applicable)		Is the Spouse Still Alive?	
Party Involved in the Marriage (Petitioner or Respondent)				Name of Spouse		Religion of Spouse	
Date of Marriage		Religious or Civil?		Date of Divorce (If Applicable)		Is the Spouse Still Alive?	

**F. Witness Information**

The Church seeks information from both parties and from witnesses who can offer valuable insights and information pertaining to the marriage in question. Before submitting the names of these witnesses, the Petitioner is asked to verify the names and addresses of these people and also to gain their approval. This process requires at least two witnesses to testify.

<b>Witness 1 (required)</b>			
Name of Witness			Relationship
Current Street Address			Phone
City	State	Zip	Email
<b>Witness 2 (required)</b>			
Name of Witness			Relationship
Current Street Address			Phone
City	State	Zip	Email
<b>Witness 3</b>			
Name of Witness			Relationship
Current Street Address			Phone
City	State	Zip	Email
<b>Witness 4</b>			
Name of Witness			Relationship
Current Street Address			Phone
City	State	Zip	Email

**G. Signature and Attestation**

I, the undersigned, hereby testify that I am bringing this case forward in good faith, that the statements I have made are true to the best of my knowledge, and that I will entrust the investigation of this case to the Court and abide by the decision rendered. By my signature, I empower the Court to appoint on my behalf, any personnel whom it may designate for the best assistance of this case, in whatever capacity the Court considers best. Moreover, I agree to honor fully the Court's sense of confidentiality and thus recognize that the materials gathered by the Court are solely for the purpose of studying the sacramental nature of the marriage.

**Signature of Petitioner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**H. Application Completion and Submission**

Please check that all of the followed required documents are submitted:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate of Baptism of the Petitioner
- \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate of Baptism of the Respondent
- \_\_\_\_\_ Religious Certificate of Marriage (or civil certificate if this is not available)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Divorce Decree (complete decree, signed and dated by the Judge)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Written Personal History (see guide sheet on page 6)

**Please note that an incomplete application or missing documents will delay the process.**

**I. Pastoral Impressions (to be completed by the Interested Priest, Deacon, or Parish Liaison only)**

Name of Priest/Deacon/Liaison			Relationship to Petitioner
Current Street Address			Phone
City	State	Zip	Email

**Please answer the following questions regarding the Petitioner:**

Is the Petitioner seeking recognition of a sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church?	If yes, to whom?	
Has the Petitioner's potential spouse been married before?	If yes, has a Declaration of Nullity been granted?	Which Diocese?
Is the Petitioner seeking to be received into the Catholic Church (RCIA)?	If yes, when? Which parish?	

The Interested Priest, Deacon or Parish Liaison is asked to describe his/her pastoral impressions of the Petitioner on a separate paper and to submit it with this application. This should include the degree of involvement with the Petitioner, and an evaluation of the Petitioner's character, sense of responsibility, and religious practice. Even if the Petitioner is not currently engaged, please include information regarding if he or she has been dating someone or otherwise is in a serious relationship that may lead to marriage. You may also include any other information that you feel may be pertinent of the marriage in question.

Thank you for your work!

**Signature of Priest/Deacon/Liaison:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit this completed application and all supporting documents to:**

The Metropolitan Tribunal  
 Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis  
 328 West Kellogg Boulevard  
 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-1997

## J. Guide Sheet for Personal History

Please answer all questions in as much detail as possible. When you finish, please sign your history and return it to:

The Metropolitan Tribunal  
The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis  
328 West Kellogg Boulevard  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1997

1. Describe your upbringing and family life emphasizing:
  - What is your family makeup and how did that impact your upbringing?
  - What are the significant aspects or events of your childhood?
  - Describe the example of marriage you witnessed in your parents or caregivers.
2. Describe your spouse's upbringing and family life emphasizing the same areas as above.
3. Describe how your relationship developed, including:
  - What was your initial attraction and impression of your spouse?
  - How did you respect and treat each other?
  - How well did you communicate and how did you resolve conflict?
  - What were the causes of any major breakups, if there were any?
4. Describe your decision to marry, including:
  - Why did you decide to marry?
  - What pressures or influences were a part of your decision or did you feel obligated for any reason?
  - Were there any conditions placed on the marriage and what were they?
  - What were the reactions of parents, family and friends to your decision?
  - How mature and ready were you to enter marriage with your spouse?
5. Describe your intentions for marriage:
  - How did you understand marriage to be a lifelong commitment? Does anything justify divorce?
  - How did you understand faithfulness to be a part of your marriage?
  - What was your attitude toward children in marriage?
  - How did you understand marriage to be a sacred union?
  - What do you remember of your marriage preparation program?
  - What did you expect marriage to be?
  - Did you discuss these areas together?
6. Describe your marriage, including:
  - What role did religion or spirituality play within your relationship?
  - How was there equality in areas such as decision making, parental responsibilities and trust?
  - How did you share everything together as husband and wife?
  - How did each of you make the other your first priority in life?
  - How did alcohol or drug use affect your relationship?
  - Was there any verbal, emotional or physical abuse and when did it begin?
  - Did either spouse's personality change significantly shortly after the wedding and, if so, how?
  - Did you seek any counseling to try to save the marriage and how did it help?
  - How did the divorce come about?
  - Why do you think your marriage is or is not a sacramental union?
7. Describe your life since the separation and divorce, including:
  - Have you experienced healing, personal growth or spiritual growth? If yes, how?
  - How is each spouse fulfilling his/her parental responsibilities to the children of this marriage?
  - Why are you seeking this declaration of nullity? (For Petitioners only)
8. Were you involved in a previous or subsequent marriage? Was your spouse?
9. Are there any further insights or comments that you would like to add?