

# CATHOLIC MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

## KINGSTON OFFICE

390 Palace Road

Kingston, Ontario, Canada

K7L 4T3

(613) 548-4461 (fax) 548-1228

### TO THOSE SEEKING A DECLARATION OF NULLITY CONCERNING MARRIAGE

In the process of requesting a Declaration of Nullity from the Catholic Church you are alleging that your marriage to another person suffered from some defect which was severe enough to make it not a true marriage in the eyes of Church Law. To establish the facts concerning this union, certain documents, your own statements, and the observations of others must be submitted for examination. They are reviewed by those who have been commissioned by the Church to determine if an essential element was or was not missing, that is, if a marriage was invalid or not.

This packet is designed to help you begin the process and contains the materials and directives necessary to initiate the study of your marriage. To better comprehend the workings of the Marriage Tribunal, please refer to *Frequently-asked questions about Marriage, Separation and Divorce*, on the web page.

Once you are satisfied that you have at least a basic understanding of the process, please complete **fully** the enclosed *PRELIMINARY INFORMATION RECORD*. The completed form may be sent directly to the Catholic Marriage Tribunal or it may be taken to your pastor or to another priest/deacon/pastoral minister in your area who can help you and who will complete the Referral Page in the record and send the entire document to the Marriage Tribunal on your behalf. Once this office has received your *PRELIMINARY INFORMATION RECORD*, you will be contacted as soon as possible to arrange a personal interview. At that time, your request that your marriage be declared null will be discussed and a representative of the Marriage Tribunal will take a record of your statement of facts concerning the marriage you believe may be invalid.

Coming to a full and true understanding of the marriage you believe may have been invalid needs considerable input and cooperation from you. Remembering and giving information about a broken relationship often involves some pain on the part of the one approaching the Tribunal. Please be assured that the people involved in the Marriage Tribunal understand this and are committed to giving fair, thorough and confidential examination of the information submitted to them, in as short a time as proper study will allow. To initiate the process please ensure that all information requested is included in the *PRELIMINARY INFORMATION RECORD* submitted the Tribunal. Completed *PRELIMINARY INFORMATION RECORDS* are processed daily and an original signature is required when submitting to the Office.

**Please remember that a marriage is presumed valid until proven and declared otherwise. No plans or dates concerning the possibility of marriage with another person would be appropriate. These could not be considered until the status of the marriage under investigation was determined.**

If there are any additional questions or difficulties, do not hesitate to contact our Office to arrange an appointment. Once again, your local parish priest(s) may be able to assist you in the preparation of these documents, as well as offering support through this time of transition and uncertainty.

We hope this process helps you find peace of mind and hope for the future.

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Kingston, Ontario K7L 4T3  
(613) 548-4461 (fax) 548-1228

Received on \_\_\_\_\_

Folio No \_\_\_\_\_

### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION RECORD

#### YOURSELF: "PETITIONER"

Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination at Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Describe Faith Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently enrolled in the RCIA Programme? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Present Names and Addresses of your Parents: (Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_)

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

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

#### OTHER PARTY: "RESPONDENT" (In the marriage which you allege to be invalid)

Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination at Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Describe Faith Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Currently enrolled in the RCIA Programme? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Present Names and Addresses of Parents: (Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_)

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

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

**MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

How long were you and the other party acquainted before marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

How long was your engagement? \_\_\_\_\_

How old were you at the time of marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ How old was the other person? \_\_\_\_\_

Church and Denomination and City of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Priest, Minister or Official: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Had you ever been married before this? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Had the other party ever been married before? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

How long was your married life together? \_\_\_\_\_

Names and dates of birth for any children born of this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dates and duration of temporary separations: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of final separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Who left? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you legally separated? \_\_\_\_\_ Date and place of Separation Agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you divorced? \_\_\_\_\_ Date and place of Final Divorce Decree: \_\_\_\_\_

What obligations remain from this marriage? (toward the other party and children): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you fulfilled or are you fulfilling these obligations? \_\_\_\_\_

In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your present relationship with the other party (contact, problems): \_\_\_\_\_

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

**(\*PREVIOUS MARRIAGES: If either of you had ever been married prior to this marriage, on a separate sheet of paper please give all of the same information asked to this point regarding each of these previous marriages.)**

**PRESENT SITUATION**

Are you dating someone now? \_\_\_\_\_ For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you living together? \_\_\_\_\_ For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you married this person civilly or in another church? \_\_\_\_\_

If married, where was the ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_

**THIRD PARTY** (the person you have referred to above)

Name of the third party: \_\_\_\_\_

His/her address & telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

His/her Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this person baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ What Denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

Has this person ever been married before? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

Presently, is this person now: Widowed? \_\_\_\_ Separated? \_\_\_\_ Divorced? \_\_\_\_ Married to you? \_\_\_\_

Is this person currently enrolled in the RCIA Programme? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Has this person received a Declaration of Nullity regarding any previous marriage(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children by this person? \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Their Names and Dates of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were you in any other marriage **between** the time of the marriage being examined by the Marriage Tribunal and the time of your present relationship or marriage to the person mentioned above? \_\_\_\_\_

**PROCEDURE**

How were you referred to the Tribunal? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a priest who knows you and your circumstances well enough to comment? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, give his name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to co-operate with the Tribunal Auditors, and all Officials who may have to work with you in making a proper examination of this marriage case? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**REFERRAL PAGE TO BE COMPLETED BY A PRIEST OR PASTORAL MINISTER**

**NOTE TO PRIEST (or pastoral minister):**

Please review this PRELIMINARY INFORMATION RECORD with the Petitioner, making sure all sections are completed. Incomplete information slows down the initiation of the examination process. Please forward the entire document to the Tribunal office at the **Catholic Marriage Tribunal, 390 Palace Road, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 4T3.**

We are grateful for any information you are able to provide in this matter, and we thank you for your assistance and support to the parties.

Name of Priest (or pastoral minister): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pastoral Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the Petitioner? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the Respondent? \_\_\_\_\_

How familiar are you with their marital problems? \_\_\_\_\_

Your assessment of this person's character and truthfulness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your assessment of the spouse's character and truthfulness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In your opinion, is there a possible basis for a Declaration of Nullity or dissolution of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest (or pastoral minister)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY**