

**PETITIONER'S QUESTIONNAIRE-(MARRIAGE WITH VALIDATION)**

**THE FOLLOWING FORTY-SIX (46) QUESTIONS ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE THE TRIBUNAL WITH THE BACKGROUND OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THIS APPLICATION FOR A DECLARATION OF INVALIDITY. PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE ON 8 ½ x 11 PAPER (PREFERABLY TYPED). SIMPLE "YES" OR "NO" ANSWERS WILL NOT SUFFICE.**

**In the case where the parties were first married in a civil or non-Catholic ceremony and then at a later time in life chose to have the marriage validated in the church it is necessary to examine the relationship in three parts. You will find the questionnaire broken into three sections. Each section will focus on a different segment of time in your relationship.**

**Family Background**

1. Please provide complete details about your own background, siblings, education, any military service, friends, etc. Were there any special circumstances or problems in your family background such as divorce, tensions in the home, difficulty in relating to parents, absence of parent(s), death, illness, alcohol and/or drug abuse, physical and/or sexual abuse, emotional illnesses, financial hardship, etc.? How did you relate to your family and friends? Please explain.
2. Please provide the same information requested in *Question 1* about your former spouse.
3. Were either of you previously married? If so, describe that marital relationship, and how/why it ended. How did this impact your relationship with each other?
4. Before you and your former spouse met each other, how much dating was done by each of you? Had either of you previously conceived any children with another party? Please explain. How did this impact your relationship?
5. Did either of you cohabit with any of your dating partners prior to your spouse? How/why did that relationship end? How did this impact your relationship with your spouse?

**I. Courtship/Time prior to the non-Catholic/civil ceremony.**

6. When and how did you become acquainted with your former spouse?
7. Did you and your former spouse live together prior to the non-Catholic/civil marriage? If so, please explain the reasons for your decision. Did you engage in premarital sex? Were any children conceived? Please explain.
8. Describe your personality and behavior and that of your former spouse prior to the non-Catholic/civil marriage. Did either of your personalities change after the marriage? In what way?
9. Describe your courtship. Where did you go? What did you do? As a couple, did you spend more time with family/friends or alone? Who made the decisions? Describe any difficulties, for example, with employment, finances, drug and/or alcohol abuse, verbal and/or physical abuse, etc.
10. When and why did you and your former spouse decide to marry non-Catholic/civilly? Was there pressure to marry because of pregnancy, family, military obligations, etc.? Who began to discuss marriage first? How long were you engaged? Why did you choose the date of the wedding? Had each of you given serious consideration to the commitment and responsibilities required for marriage? Please be complete in your answers.
11. Did either of you have any doubts or reservations about your decision to marry in the non-Catholic/civil ceremony? Did anyone advise against the non-Catholic/civil marriage? If yes to either, please explain.
12. Was the relationship ever broken prior to the non-Catholic/civil ceremony? If so, for what reasons?
13. Did you and your former spouse make any type of pre-nuptial agreement? If so, please explain. If this agreement was written, please provide a copy.
14. Describe any premarital instructions you and your former spouse received. What was the reaction to the instructions?

15. During your engagement, how much time was spent on planning the non-Catholic/civil ceremony and honeymoon? How did your relationship change during this time?
16. Describe the quality of your communication prior to the non-Catholic/civil marriage. What did you discuss? Did you talk about your future together, employment, where you would live, etc.?
17. Prior to the non-Catholic/civil marriage, did you and your former spouse have any discussions or agreements regarding children? If so, what were the results of these discussions?
18. Describe your problem-solving skills prior to the non-Catholic/civil marriage. If you disagreed, how was the problem resolved? Were you able to solve your problems through discussions or did arguments usually result? Did either of you seem to dominate the relationship?
19. Were you both faithful to each other during the courtship and engagement? Before the non-Catholic/civil marriage, did you and your former spouse discuss fidelity? Please explain.

## **II. Time between the non-Catholic/civil ceremony and Catholic ceremony/Validation**

**Please Note:** While some of the questions may seem repetitious, it is important that you reply to the question as it pertains to this specific period of time in your relationship.

20. (A.) Did you both consider yourselves married prior to the Catholic ceremony?  
 (B.) When did you begin thinking about having the marriage validated in the Church?  
 (C.) Why was the marriage to be validated in the Church? Who made the plans?  
 (D.) Describe any religious pre-marital instructions you and your former spouse received.  
 What was the reaction to the instructions?
21. Describe your relationship during the time between the non-Catholic/civil ceremony and the Catholic ceremony. What problems, if any, did you encounter? (For example, employment, sexual relations, finances, drugs and/or alcohol, verbal and/or physical abuse, in-laws, your spouse's friends, participation in sports or other activities, frequent absences from the family home, employment, work hours, etc.) When did these difficulties begin? How were these difficulties resolved? Please explain.
22. Describe the quality of your communication between the non-Catholic/civil and Catholic ceremonies.
23. Describe your problem-solving skills between the non-Catholic/civil and Catholic ceremonies. If you disagreed, how was the problem resolved? Were you able to solve your problems through discussions or did arguments usually result? Did either of you seem to dominate the relationship?
24. Describe your personality and behavior and that of your former spouse between the non-Catholic/civil and Catholic ceremonies. Did either of your personalities change after the non-Catholic/civil ceremony? In what way?
25. Was there anything of importance that you learned about your former spouse between the non-Catholic/civil and the Catholic ceremonies that had been kept from you or that you did not know? Please explain.
26. Describe your religious practices with your spouse (and children) between the non-Catholic/civil and Catholic ceremonies. Were there religious differences which affected the marriage? Please explain.
27. Did you and/or your former spouse experience any difficulties in emotional and/or physical health between the non-Catholic/civil and Catholic ceremonies? Were there any hospitalizations? Were either of you taking any medications? Please explain.
28. Were you faithful to each other between the non-Catholic/civil and Catholic ceremonies? If not, please give details about any infidelities, for example, when they began, how long they continued, etc.
29. If children were not conceived or adopted between the non-Catholic/civil and Catholic ceremonies, please explain the reason. OR If children were conceived or adopted, how were parental responsibilities fulfilled by both of you during this time?
30. During this time period, were there children conceived but not carried to full term? Please explain.

31. At any time between the non-Catholic/civil and Catholic ceremonies did you discuss personal or marital problems with professional persons? What insights, if any, did you gain from counseling? Would you be willing to sign a release for these records if needed?

### **III. Married life after the Catholic ceremony**

**Please Note:** While some of the questions may seem repetitious, it is important that you reply to the question as it pertains to this specific period of time in your relationship.

32. Please provide a chronology of your employment history and that of your former spouse, giving job titles, dates, places of employment, and reasons for leaving. Provide the history from the time of your non-Catholic/civil ceremony.
33. Please provide a chronology of relocations (moves from home to home) including reasons for the moves. Provide the history from the time of your non-Catholic/civil marriage.
34. Describe your religious practices with your spouse (and children) after the Catholic ceremony. Were there religious differences which affected the marriage? Please explain.
35. Describe any difficulties encountered **after** the Catholic ceremony. (For example, employment, sexual relations, finances, drugs and/or alcohol, verbal and/or physical abuse, in-laws, your spouse's friends, participation in sports or other activities, frequent absences from the family home, employment, work hours, etc.) When did these difficulties begin? How were these difficulties resolved?
36. Did you and/or your former spouse experience any difficulties in emotional and/or physical health after the Catholic ceremony? Were there any hospitalizations? Were either of you taking any medications? Please explain.
37. Were you faithful to each other after the Catholic ceremony? If not, please give details about any infidelities, for example, when they began, how long they continued, etc.
38. If children were not conceived or adopted after the Catholic ceremony, please explain the reason. OR If children were conceived or adopted, how were parental responsibilities fulfilled by both of you after the Catholic ceremony? Since the divorce?
39. During this time period, were there children conceived but not carried to full term? Please explain.
40. At any time after the Catholic ceremony did you discuss personal or marital problems with professional persons? What insights, if any, did you gain from counseling? Would you be willing to sign a release for these records if needed?

### **Separation and Divorce**

41. Please give details of any and all separations, including the final separation. When and why did the separation(s) occur? How long did the separation(s) last? Why did you or did you not reconcile?
42. When were statements first made about a possible divorce? When and why did you and/or your former spouse make the final decision to divorce? Who initiated divorce proceedings? When was legal counsel sought?
43. Why did the marriage last as long as it did after the Catholic ceremony?
44. Were you and your former spouse mature and ready for marriage at the time of the Catholic ceremony? Did you and your former spouse exercise good judgment in having the Catholic ceremony? Please explain.
45. Why do you believe consent exchanged at the Catholic ceremony is invalid?
46. Is there any other pertinent information regarding your marriage that you would like to offer?