



Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Lubbock

Case: \_\_\_\_\_ v \_\_\_\_\_ Protocol Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**LACK OF CANONICAL FORM**

**MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL & CANONICAL SERVICES**

*Diocese of Lubbock*

**Catholic Pastoral Center 4620 Fourth Street • Lubbock TX 79416**

**PO Box 98700 • Lubbock, TX 79499-8700 • 806-792-3943 Ext. 209**

Lack of Form applies to a marriage in which at least one person was a member of the Roman Catholic tradition prior to the wedding which occurred at a (civil or religious) place outside of the Catholic Church without the permission of the Church. If the Catholic Church did not grant that Catholic the favor to marry in this form, then the Church does not recognize his/her marriage as being a valid covenant due to the fact that the couple did not celebrate their wedding according to the official Catholic canonical form.



**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS-**

**Original Petition**, completed, signed by both the Petitioner and Priest, with the Church Seal affixed.

**Original/Certified copy of Baptismal Certificate(s)** for all Catholic parties involved, (issued within the last six months of submitting petition).

**Original/Certified copy of the Marriage License Certificate**, (From the County, State in which the marriage took place.)

**Original/Certified final divorce decree**. (Signed and dated by the Presiding Judge.)

Fee - \$50.00 litigation fee

# OFFICE OF THE TRIBUNAL

Diocese of Lubbock

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Lubbock, Texas 79408-8700

## LACK OF CANONICAL FORM PETITION

According to the canon law of the Catholic Church, all Catholics are expected to marry within the Catholic Church. If a Catholic party enters a marriage with another party (Catholic or non-Catholic) without the proper prescribed liturgical formula or without a dispensation (permission) to marry in a non-Catholic church the marriage is most likely invalid.

This worksheet is designed to help people who are in such a situation. By completing this worksheet and submitting the required documentation this process can be greatly expedited.

### Section One

1. I, \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, married \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Name) (Religion) (Name)

a \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Religion) (Date) (Location, Town, State)

in the presence of \_\_\_\_ a minister; \_\_\_\_ a rabbi; \_\_\_\_ a civil official; or \_\_\_\_ no official

marriage but by common law, starting in \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. Current Address of the Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (Town) (State) (Zip Code)

Telephone number (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

### Section Two

The following questions must be answered with a **YES** in order to proceed with a declaration of nullity due to lack of form.

3. Do you have a recent copy of the Catholic party's baptismal certificate (issued within the last six months with all notations and the parish seal)?  Yes  No

4. Do you have a copy of the marriage license?  Yes  No

5. Does the license indicate that the wedding was conducted by any one of the following:

- a. Protestant minister, or  Yes  No
- b. Civil magistrate (i.e., Justice of the Peace), or
- c. A non-Christian official

6. Do you have a copy of the divorce decree?  Yes  No

### Section Three

The following questions must receive **NO** in order to continue.

8. Does the marriage license indicate that an Orthodox priest conducted the wedding?  Yes  No

9. Does the marriage license indicate that a Catholic priest or deacon conducted the wedding?  Yes  No

10. For marriages that took place after November 27, 1983: Did the Catholic party leave the Church by a formal act (e.g., get re-baptized in another denomination or publicly deny the Faith) before he or she got married?  Yes  No

11. Is there any indication on the baptismal certificate, or any other documents or from the Catholic party that a dispensation from canonical form had been granted?  Yes  No

12. Is there any indication under the "notations" section of the baptismal certificate that a convalidation or sanation was performed on this marriage?  Yes  No

13. Was the marriage conducted in danger of death, or did it proceed without a priest or deacon simply because one would not have been available for at least a month?  Yes  No

### Section Four

#### Please provide the following:

- 1) **Baptismal Certificate issued within the past six months from the parish of baptism of the Catholic party with all notations and the parish seal (no fax copies or Xerox copies)**
- 2) **Copy of the Marriage License.**
- 3) **Copy of the Divorce Decree.**
- 4) **Check for \$50**

Do you affirm that to the best of your knowledge, the above answers are true?

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_

Parish

\_\_\_\_\_

Priest, Deacon or Lay Minister