



**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR FILLING OUT AND SUBMITTING
PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE**

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

The Following documents must accompany your Petition for a Declaration of Nullity. Case(s) cannot be accepted if a necessary item is missing.

- _____ **A Civil Marriage License(s)** for the union(s) under investigation [May be obtained from the county clerk from where the license was issued.]
- _____ **A Marriage Certificate** issued by the Catholic Church, and photocopy of the church Prenuptial File.
- _____ **A Certified copy of the Divorce Decree(s)** for the union under investigation signed and dated by the Judge.
- _____ A recent copy of the **Baptismal Certificate** of Catholic parties, with notations. The Baptismal Certificate can be obtained from the Church in which the person was baptized. Your Advocate may need to assist you in obtaining this information.
- _____ The **required** letter from the Pastor, Associate Pastor, Deacon, or other parish-based Advocate.

GUIDELINES:

- Before you answer any of the questions, please read the entire questionnaire.
- Study each question carefully and think about how you will answer it. It is important that you answer each question as **truthfully and fully** as possible.
- Please provide as much detail as possible. You may use as many additional pages as necessary. Specific and detailed answers are most helpful to the judge in reaching a decision.
- If you do not understand a question, or are unable to fill out the questionnaire, please contact your Pastor or Advocate.
- The questionnaire should be either **typewritten** or completed **legibly in black ink**.
- If a question does not apply to you, please write "N/A".
- If you need more space to answer a particular question, you may use the back of the page, or a separate sheet of paper.
- The **Petitioner** is the person seeking the annulment. The **Respondent** is your former spouse.

Some of the questions may appear to be very similar to other questions that you have been asked. Please understand that each question is significant to a particular time, such as dating, the engagement, or the actual marriage.

CONCERNING THE WITNESSES:

- A. As a general rule, witnesses should have knowledge of the marriage in question, especially the courtship, engagement, and wedding. When possible, they should have known at least one party *before* the wedding.
- B. Talk with your prospective witnesses and be sure that they are willing to complete a questionnaire.
- C. The witnesses should answer each question fully.
- D. If witnesses are unable to read or write or do not speak English, inform your Pastor or other Advocate, and other arrangements will be made to take their statements.
- E. The expert testimony of physician, other health-care professionals, and counselors may be of great importance. A release form is required to allow them to testify.

PLEASE RETAIN THESE TWO PAGES FOR YOUR RECORDS.