

Office Use Only

Case Name:

Case #:



REQUEST FOR A DISSOLUTION OF THE BOND IN FAVOR OF THE FAITH (PETRINE PRIVILEGE)

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL · P.O. Box 907, Houston, TX 77001 · 713-807-9286 · tribunal@archgh.org

This form must be filled out completely with the help of a Case Sponsor (please print or type), including information regarding the Respondent. If the Respondent is truly impossible to locate, please attach a record of your attempts at locating him/her.

PETITIONER (YOU)	RESPONDENT (FORMER SPOUSE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Current name: _____	Current name: _____
Maiden name (if applicable): _____	Maiden name (if applicable): _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____	City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Telephone: _____	Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____	E-mail: _____
Date of birth: _____ Place of birth: _____	Date of birth: _____ Place of birth: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Baptized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Denomination: _____	Baptized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Denomination: _____
Place of baptism: _____ Date: _____	Place of baptism: _____ Date: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____	City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Present religion: _____	Present religion: _____
Do you intend to be baptized?	Does your former spouse intend to be baptized?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure If so, what religion? _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure If so, what religion? _____

QUESTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING

This request for a Dissolution of the Bond in Favor of the Faith can only be used if you (the Petitioner) can answer yes or not applicable (N/A) to all of the following questions:

- ☐ YES ☐ NO: Was at least one party in the marriage unbaptized prior to the marriage and remained unbaptized throughout the duration of the marriage?
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A: If the unbaptized party was later baptized, can you answer "yes" that you and your former spouse (the Respondent) have not engaged in sexual intercourse since your/their baptism?
- ☐ YES ☐ NO: Is it true that you were not the exclusive or predominant culpable cause of the breakup of the marriage?
- ☐ YES ☐ NO: Is it true that there is no hope of reconciliation between you and your former spouse (the Respondent)?
- ☐ YES ☐ NO: Do you have a current or intended spouse whom you wish to marry in the Catholic Church?
- ☐ YES ☐ NO: Is it true that the current or intended spouse was not the cause of the breakup of the marriage for which you are seeking a Favor of the Faith?
- ☐ YES ☐ NO: Is the Catholic party (or Catechumen) actively practicing the Faith?
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A: If one of the parties of the new intended marriage is not Catholic, is the Catholic party willing to sign the promise that he/she is prepared to remove dangers of defecting from the Faith?
- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A: If one of the parties of the new intended marriage is not Catholic, is the non-Catholic party willing to sign the promise to raise any children born of the new marriage as Catholics and not hinder the Catholic party's practice of their Faith?
- ☐ YES ☐ NO: Is it true that the dissolution of the previous marriage would not be a cause of scandal?

*Please provide the name of a priest who will write a letter of recommendation on your behalf (we will contact):

Name: _____ Address: _____

MARRIAGE BEING STUDIED

Date of marriage ceremony: _____ Name of church or place of marriage: _____

Age at the time of this marriage ceremony: Yourself _____ Former spouse: _____

Was this marriage validated in the Catholic Church? ☐ YES ☐ NO Date of validation/convalidation: _____

Date of Divorce: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Who filed for divorce? ☐ Yourself ☐ Former Spouse
Month, Day, Year (Date of the judge's signature)

On what grounds? _____

Is there any current or possible future civil litigation with your former spouse [child custody, etc.]? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If YES, explain. _____

Approximate date of final separation: _____
Month/Year

What is the PRESENT relationship between you and your former spouse?

☒ Good ☐ Indifferent and/or toleration for sake of children ☐ Bad ☐ No contact at all

Do you think your former spouse will be cooperative, uninterested, or antagonistic to this process? Explain _____

Have you informed your former spouse about this process? If so, were they supportive of your petition for a dissolution? Explain. _____

OTHER MARRIAGES OF PETITIONER

Is the case under investigation your first marriage? ☐ YES ☒ NO If no, list all other previous marriages below:

1. Previous Spouse: _____ Baptism? ☒ YES ☐ NO Religion of baptism: _____

Date of marriage: _____ Location: _____ Date of Civil Divorce: _____

Was this marriage validated in the Catholic Church? ☐ YES ☒ NO Date of validation/convalidation: _____

Was there a Catholic decree of nullity: ☐ YES ☒ NO Tribunal: _____ Date: _____ Protocol No.: _____

Has Previous Spouse died? ☐ YES ☒ NO Date of death: _____ *Proof of death must be provided*

2. Previous Spouse: _____ Baptism? ☐ YES ☒ NO Religion of baptism: _____

Date of marriage: _____ Location: _____ Date of Civil Divorce: _____

Was this marriage validated in the Catholic Church? ☐ YES ☒ NO Date of validation/convalidation: _____

Was there a Catholic decree of nullity: ☐ YES ☐ NO Tribunal: _____ Date: _____ Protocol No.: _____

Has Previous Spouse died? ☐ YES ☐ NO Date of death: _____ *Proof of death must be provided*

OTHER MARRIAGES OF RESPONDENT

Is the case under investigation the Respondent's first marriage? ☐ YES ☐ NO **If no, list all other previous marriages below:**

Previous Spouse: _____ Baptism? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Religion of baptism: _____

Date of marriage: _____ Location: _____

Date of Civil Divorce: _____

Was this marriage validated in the Catholic Church? ☐ YES ☐ NO Date of validation/convalidation: _____

Was there a Catholic decree of nullity: ☐ YES ☐ NO Tribunal: _____ Date: _____

Protocol No.: _____

Has Previous Spouse died? ☐ YES ☐ NO Date of death: _____ *Proof of death must be provided*

Please indicate any other marriages contracted by either party, whether before or after the marriage in question. If more space is needed, please include those marriages on a separate sheet. If applicable, please enclose a certified civil marriage license, death certificate, divorce decree, and Catholic declaration of nullity.

CHILDREN BORN OF THE PETITIONER

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Baptized? ☐ YES ☐ NO Intention to baptize? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Baptized? ☐ YES ☐ NO Intention to baptize? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Baptized? ☐ YES ☐ NO Intention to baptize? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Baptized? ☐ YES ☐ NO Intention to baptize? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Have all moral and civil obligations towards children of this former union been met? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please attach additional sheets as needed for any other children.

Please provide the baptismal certificates of any children who are still minors.

WITNESSES

In order to demonstrate that your marriage fulfills the required conditions for this process, you must provide at least 3 reliable witnesses such as your parents or relatives who have known you for most of your life and can attest to your character as well as the facts regarding the breakdown of the marriage. Please contact these witnesses in advance to ensure that they are willing to testify and be contacted by the Tribunal. We also ask you to provide the names of (but not contact) 3 potential witnesses for the Respondent in case the Tribunal needs to contact them for this process. The pace of the process is often directly connected to how quickly the witnesses respond.

WITNESS # 1 FOR THE PETITIONER <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____ Preferred Language: _____ E-mail: _____ Date of birth: _____ Relationship to the Petitioner: _____	WITNESS # 1 FOR THE RESPONDENT <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____ Preferred Language: _____ E-mail: _____ Date of birth: _____ Relationship to the Respondent: _____
WITNESS # 2 FOR THE PETITIONER <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____ Preferred Language: _____ E-mail: _____ Date of birth: _____ Relationship to the Petitioner: _____	WITNESS # 2 FOR THE RESPONDENT <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____ Preferred Language: _____ E-mail: _____ Date of birth: _____ Relationship to the Respondent: _____
WITNESS # 3 FOR THE PETITIONER <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____ Preferred Language: _____ E-mail: _____ Date of birth: _____ Relationship to the Petitioner: _____	WITNESS # 3 FOR THE RESPONDENT <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____ Preferred Language: _____ E-mail: _____ Date of birth: _____ Relationship to the Respondent: _____

PETITIONER'S CURRENT OR INTENDED SPOUSE

The dissolution of the marriage bond in favor of the faith is always granted in view of a prospective marriage with a specific person. Thus, it is necessary to examine the way in which the new marriage will benefit the faith of the Catholic party, which means that the current or intended spouse must be contacted during the instruction of the cause.

Current name: _____ Maiden name (if applicable): _____

Present address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date of birth: _____ City of birth: _____ State: _____

Has this party ever been baptized? ☐ YES ☐ NO If so, please give date of baptism: _____

Church of baptism: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Religion of baptism: _____ Current religion: _____

Are there any children born of this relationship? ☐ YES ☐ NO Baptized? ☐ YES ☐ NO Catholic? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Has this person ever been married previously? ☐ YES ☐ NO If so, how many times? _____

If previously married, please answer the following questions for every previous marriage:

Previous Spouse: _____ Religion of Previous Spouse: _____

Date of marriage: _____ Location: _____ Date of Civil Divorce: _____

Was this marriage validated in the Catholic Church? ☐ YES ☐ NO Date of validation/convalidation: _____

Was there a Catholic decree of nullity? ☐ YES ☐ NO Tribunal: _____ Date: _____ Protocol No.: _____

Has Previous Spouse died? ☐ YES ☐ NO Date of death: _____ *Proof of death must be provided.*

Please attach additional sheets as needed.

If applicable, please enclose a certified civil marriage license, baptismal certificates for adults and any children, death certificate, divorce decree, and Catholic declaration of nullity.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE MARRIAGE TO BE DISSOLVED

*By requesting a dissolution of the bond in favor of the faith, you are asking the Roman Pontiff to dissolve your non-sacramental marriage in order that you may enter a second marriage. The faithful in the Church have no right to obtain a dissolution of the bond; rather, the exercise of this power by the Pope is a favor which can only be granted in some circumstances. For example, Catholics who have already been in a valid non-sacramental union can only be granted a dissolution if the intended marriage will be with another baptized person. Consequently, a request for a dissolution of the bond in favor of the faith must include some basic facts about the marriage to be dissolved. **If your petition is accepted by this Tribunal, we will be sending you a set of questions about the marriage being dissolved. They will cover the following areas of interest:***

- I. Basic details about the premarital relationship between you and your former spouse.
- II. Basic details about the practice of faith during the marriage.
- III. Basic details about why the marriage failed, especially regarding who caused the breakdown of the marriage.
- IV. Basic details about your current/intended spouse.

Documents Required To Be Included With Your Petition:

For the Petitioner, please enclose the following document:

- *If baptized, a newly issued baptismal certificate*

For the Respondent, please enclose the following document if you are able to obtain it:

- *If baptized, a newly issued baptismal certificate*

For the marriage to be dissolved, please enclose the following documents:

- *A certified civil marriage license*
- *The complete civil divorce decree*
- *Baptismal certificates of any children of the union who are still minors*
- *Copy of any dispensation for disparity of cult (if applicable)*

For the Intended Spouse, please enclose the following documents:

- *If baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)*
- *Promises for a Mixed Marriage (if applicable)*

For any previous marriages by any party, including the intended spouse, please include the following documents:

- *A certified civil marriage license, complete civil divorce decree, Catholic declaration of nullity, and/or death certificate if applicable*

Fees for the Process:

While our Tribunal does incur expenses for this process, we subsidize our costs by means of the Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) so that this service might be offered to you as a ministry. As a result, we do not charge a fee for our Tribunal services; however, any fees required by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) in Rome must be borne by the Petitioner. Currently, the DDF charges \$530. **So, we ask that you please send with this petition a check for \$530 payable to the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. In the event that your petition is not accepted or is otherwise ended or abandoned before it is sent to the DDF in Rome, your check will be voided and returned to you.** If you cannot afford this fee, you can request financial assistance from the Judicial Vicar.

Please sign and date the statement below:

I understand that a dissolution of the bond in favor of the faith is a favor granted by the Holy Father and is in no way a right which is owed to me or to anyone else. As such, I request that the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and his delegate(s) assist in the instruction of the cause in order to prepare the request to be sent to the Holy Father for his consideration.

I attest that there is no possibility of restoring the partnership of the conjugal life of the marriage which I am requesting to be dissolved. Furthermore, I attest that I was not the exclusive or prevailing culpable cause of the breakup of the conjugal common life, nor did my intended spouse by his/her own fault provoke the separation of spouses.

I hereby release any and all materials gathered for the instruction of this process to the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, to other experts if necessary, to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, and to the Roman Pontiff.

I understand that no guarantee can be made as to the outcome of the request, that no definite time frame for a completion date can be established, and that **no date for a new marriage can be set by a parish priest or deacon unless the favor is granted.**

I understand that it is my responsibility to make payment for any fees charged by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith when so notified by the Metropolitan Tribunal of Galveston-Houston.

I swear before God and my conscience that all the information given in this petition is true insofar as I know.

Signature of Petitioner

Date

CASE SPONSOR: *Priest, Deacon, or designated Layperson who completed this petition. This petition will **NOT** be accepted without one.*

☐ Msgr. ☐ Rev. ☐ Deacon ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Case Sponsor's Parish: _____

City/State: _____

PARISH SEAL

Signature of Case Sponsor



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Metropolitan Tribunal

P.O. Box 907 - Houston, TX 77001-0907 - (713) 807-9286

DSF Supported

REQUEST FOR A DISSOLUTION IN FAVOR OF THE FAITH (PETRINE PRIVILEGE) PROMISES FOR A MIXED MARRIAGE (*CAUTIONES*)

Promises of the Catholic Party

In the presence of the undersigned priest, I hereby promise to practice my faith, and to fulfill to the best of my ability my obligation to have all children who may be born to our marriage baptized in the Catholic Church and carefully raised in the knowledge and practice of the Catholic faith.

[signature]

Promises of the Non-Catholic Party

In the presence of the undersigned priest, I hereby promise that I shall permit my spouse to practice the Catholic religion and to fulfill the solemn promise that all the children of our marriage will be baptized and raised in the Catholic faith.

[signature]

Certification

I, the undersigned priest, hereby certify that both parties have freely made the above promises in my presence.

[signature]

PARISH SEAL

[date]