

Diocese of Dallas



TRIBUNAL
3725 Blackburn Street
PO Box 190507
Dallas Texas 75219
www.dallascatholic.org/tribunal

Protocol No: _____

Name: _____

PETITIONER'S QUESTIONNAIRE – Formal Process

In the answers you provide, please indicate whether the source of your information is firsthand or from someone other than yourself. If the source is not firsthand, indicate from whom, when and under what circumstances you obtained this information.

Please know that any reference to child or elder abuse required by law to be reported may have to be reported by this Tribunal.

1. a) Your name and occupation:

b) What is the highest level of education you have achieved?
2. Do you now affirm that you will answer the questions here proposed, telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?
3. a) Is there a chance of reconciliation between you and your former spouse?

b) Is there any court action in progress, or do you foresee any, regarding your former marriage or any children thereof? If so, please provide the name of the court and each case number.

A. BACKGROUND OF EACH PARTY

4. Please describe **your** family background.
 - a) Describe **your** home environment during your childhood. What were your parents and siblings like? How did you relate to your family?
 - b) Did your family background include many divorces, separations, or live-in relationships? Did you have the experience of growing up in several households, among relatives, in foster homes or in an institution such as an orphanage?
 - c) How did your family view religion?
 - d) How did your family perceive marriage? Can you say there was a healthy role model for a happy or healthy marriage displayed in your family? Were there any cultural factors that influenced your perception of marriage?
 - e) Did your family discuss sexuality? Were there any cultural factors that influenced your knowledge of human sexuality and sexual relations?
 - f) How did you relate to other people?
 - g) Did you seriously date other people prior to dating your former spouse? How many such relationships did you have, and why did they break up?

h) Please describe any problems regarding the following that **you** had prior to the wedding with the following. When did **your former spouse** become aware of **your** problem(s)?

- Gambling
- Money
- Alcohol
- Other drugs (illegal, prescription, over the counter, etc.)
- Sex (open to sexual relationships, aversion to sex, sexual disorders, questions regarding sexual identity or homosexuality, etc.)
- Work

5. Please describe the family background of **your former spouse**:

- a) Describe **your former spouse's** home environment during his/her childhood. What were the his/her parents and siblings like? How did s/he relate to family?

- b) Did **your former spouse's family** background include many divorces, separations, or live-in relationships? Did s/he have the experience of growing up in several households, among relatives, in foster homes or in an institution such as an orphanage?

- c) How did **your former spouse's family** view religion?

- d) How did **your former spouse's family** perceive marriage? Can you say there was a healthy role model for a happy or healthy marriage displayed in his/her family? Were there any cultural factors that influenced his/her perception of marriage?

- e) Did **your former spouse's family** discuss sexuality? Were there any cultural factors that influenced his/her knowledge of human sexuality and sexual relations?
- f) How did **your former spouse** relate to other people?
- g) Did **your former spouse** seriously date other people prior to dating you? How many such relationships did s/he have and why did they break up?
- h) Please describe problems **your former spouse** had, prior to the marriage, regarding the following. When did **you** become aware of his/her problem(s)?
- Gambling
 - Money
 - Alcohol
 - Other drugs (illegal, prescription, over the counter, etc.)
 - Sex (open to sexual relationships, aversion to sex, sexual disorders, questions regarding sexual identity or homosexuality, etc.)
 - Work

B. COURTSHIP

6. a) When did the two of you meet? (Please provide month and year) How old was each of you?
- b) How did you meet?

- c) What initially attracted you to each other?

- d) How frequently did you date? What were your typical activities? Were you usually alone as a couple or together with other friends and/or family?

- e) Describe the dating period. Was it tranquil and happy or was it marked by quarrels, uncertainty? Please explain.

- f) Did the relationship ever end during the courtship? (Provide specific date/s in months/years.) When did you reconcile? (Provide specific date/s in months/years.)

- g) Why did you reconcile? Looking back, would you still reconcile? Explain.

- h) What was your attitude and that of your former spouse concerning sexual involvement during the courtship?

- i) Did you live together at any time during the courtship? What were you expecting to obtain through cohabitation? Provide dates of cohabitation (months/years).

- j) How did you perceive marriage to be different from cohabitation?

- k) In all, how long did you date your former spouse before you married? (Provide specific numbers of years and months.)

C. DECISION TO MARRY

- 7. a) How did the decision to marry come about? Why did you choose to marry when you did?

- b) Was there a formal engagement period? How long were you engaged before the wedding? Provide months/years.

- c) Who proposed?

- d) Was either of you on the “rebound” from a broken relationship or previous marriage? Please explain.

- e) Why did **you** decide to marry? Was your decision made thoughtfully or impulsively? Did you see it as a “next step” without much consideration?

- f) Why did **your former spouse** decide to marry? Was his/her decision made thoughtfully or impulsively? Did your former spouse see it as a “next step” without much consideration?

- g) Were you or your former spouse impulsive in other areas of life such as career, finances, etc.? Please describe.

- h) Would you now say you knew each other well enough to marry when you did?

- i) Would you now say you were prepared for marriage at the time?

- j) Was there any premarital counseling or preparation? If so, what do you recall about the counseling or preparation? What was **your** reaction to it? What was the reaction of **your former spouse**?

INFLUENCES

- 8. Did either of you have any hesitation about getting married? If so, please explain and tell why the marriage plans continued.

- 9. Did anyone suggest you not marry? Please explain.

- 10. How did family members of each of you react when they were told about the decision to marry?

11. Did you or your former spouse agree to marry for some reason other than being in love and wanting to marry the other?

a) Was there some reason you or your former spouse decided to go through a wedding ceremony without being in love (to obtain citizenship, to escape your or his/her childhood home, for insurance, welfare, or financial purposes)?

b) Were these reasons understood by both at the time you decided to marry?

12. Were you or your former spouse forced or pressured in any way to enter this marriage? Was this marriage someone else's idea, and not yours or that of your former spouse?

a) Did either of you feel you had no real choice other than to marry the other?

b) Did either of you feel deeply afraid that NOT marrying would bring about a serious harm or threat?

c) At the time of the decision to marry, was either of you dependent on parents or others to make major decisions? Would the marriage have taken place if the parents or others had objected?

13. Did either of you suffer from any psychological, mental, or emotional problems at the time of the decision to marry?

a) If so, was there a formal diagnosis?

b) Did the illness prevent during the marriage either of you from living out the commitment you made to each other or to your children?

14. Did either of you have any addictions at the time of the wedding (alcohol, drugs, prescription drugs, etc)?

If so, did the addiction prevent during the marriage either of you from living out the commitment you made to each other or to your children?

15. At the time of your marriage, did either of you have any serious sexual disorder or serious questions about your sexual orientation?

If so, did this affect the ability to live out the commitment to marriage?

16. Did you or your former spouse intentionally misrepresent or conceal information from the other person necessary to make a well-informed decision about marrying? Did someone else (a parent, for example) misrepresent or conceal such information?

a) If the truth had been known, and the deception not been carried out, would the marriage have taken place?

b) When was the deceit discovered? (Before or after the wedding?)

c) When the deceit was discovered, did it have an immediate effect on the relationship?

17. Was this an arranged marriage?

ATTITUDES ABOUT MARRIAGE

18. a) Was there a certain quality or trait you or your former spouse were looking for in a prospective husband or wife?

b) Did you or your former spouse consider that trait so important that you or your former spouse would marry only someone who possessed that trait?

19. Did either you or your former spouse attach any condition concerning the past, present or the future to the marriage? For example living in a certain area, career goals, children, religious conversion, virginity, use of alcohol/cigarettes, etc.

a) Did you have a prenuptial agreement (either written, understood or implied) or any other document, thinking divorce was an option if the future condition were not met?

- b) Did you have a prenuptial agreement (either written, understood or implied) or any other document regarding a past or present condition?

- c) Was someone making marriage a condition for something else? For example: for an inheritance, a job or baptism of your child, etc.

20. a) Did you and your former spouse discuss the permanence of marriage before the wedding? Explain your understanding of the role of permanence in marriage.
-
- b) Did both of you accept marriage “until death do we part”?
-
- c) Can you say either you or your former spouse did not know when you married that marriage is a permanent partnership?
-
- d) Did either of you accept the idea of a “trial” marriage, with the understanding you could divorce and remarry if it did not work out?
-
- e) At the time you entered marriage, would you have thought you could divorce and remarry for a particular reason (physical abuse, adultery, unhappiness, illness)?

f) Did either of you clearly believe it was your right to divorce and remarry at will?

g) If you and your former spouse had been told divorce and remarriage would be impossible for any reason, would either of you have backed out of the marriage?

21. a) Did either of you believe marriage was merely a civil contract, having only civil effects, with no relationship to religion or the Church?

b) Were you married by a judge or civil official because you did not want a church wedding? Did either or both of you intend to enter only a civil contract of marriage with no thought of religious overtones?

c) Did either of you come from a religious background which taught clearly that marriage is not a sacrament or not a sacred bond?

d) Would you or your former spouse have called off the marriage if the other person insisted on a church wedding or insisted that marriage was a religious matter?

e) Did either of you have a hatred or aversion toward religion?

22. a) Did either of you enter marriage with absolutely no understanding of human sexuality and sexual intercourse?
- b) Was either of you reared in an environment that was extremely sheltered or sexually repressed (to an unhealthy degree)?
23. a) Did you and your former spouse discuss plans about having children in the marriage? What were the thoughts of each about children?
- b) Explain your understanding of the role of children in marriage.
- c) Did either of you decide to exclude or delay children? If so, what practical steps did you and your spouse take to delay/exclude children (for example: contraceptives, surgical operation, abortion, etc.)?
- d) Was there a definite time or condition for when you or your former spouse would later be open to children, or additional children, in the marriage (for example: after graduation, financial security, a certain number of years, etc.)?
- e) Even if there was a premarital pregnancy, was there the intention to have any other children in the marriage?

- f) Was there a limit on the number of children you would have in the marriage?

- g) How firm was the intention against children? What motivated it? Was it negotiable? Was it a one-sided decision? Please explain.

- h) Were the decisions regarding children made before the marriage was entered? Did they ever change?

- i) Were the decisions regarding children mutually agreed upon?

- j) Did one or both of you believe firmly one had the right to determine when and if there would be children in this marriage?

- k) Were there behaviors/attitudes to suggest an intention against children?

- l) Was each of you willing to accept any children who might be conceived as a gift from God?

- m) What were the thoughts of each of you about the rearing and religious education of the children?

24. a) Before marrying, did you and your former spouse discuss being faithful to each other in marriage? What were the thoughts of each of you at that time? What did you see as the role of fidelity in marriage?
- b) Was sexual infidelity acceptable to either of you? Did either or both of you intend to have an “open marriage,” which would permit other sexual partners?
- c) Was there anything in the family background of either of you to explain the belief that marriage was not an exclusive (totally faithful) relationship? Did either family consider infidelity or living together acceptable or desirable?
- d) Did either you or your former spouse believe you had the right to determine if you would have other sexual partners during this marriage? If yes, did you or your former spouse intend to claim this right?
- e) Had either you or your former spouse been unfaithful in previous relationships?
- f) Was either of you sexually unfaithful to the other during your courtship or engagement?
- g) Was either of you sexually unfaithful to the other during the marriage?

- 25 . a) Before you married, did you and your former spouse discuss your dreams and goals for your marriage? What were the thoughts of each?
- b) Did both you and your former spouse agree that marriage obliges both of you to commit yourselves to an exclusive community of love to each other for the rest of your lives?
- c) When you married, did you share common interests and activities?
- d) Before the wedding, did you discuss how finances and household chores would be handled during the marriage?

D. WEDDING AND HONEYMOON

26. How did you decide and select where you married?
27. a) What were your feelings about the marriage immediately prior to or during the ceremony? How would you describe the commitment you made to your spouse on the day of the wedding?
- b) Did either of you use drugs or alcohol before the wedding ceremony? Was either of you intoxicated, “stoned” or “high” during the ceremony?
- c) Did anything unusual occur just prior to or during the ceremony?

28. a) Was there a honeymoon? If not, why not?

b) Did any problem arise during the honeymoon?

c) Were there marital relations during the honeymoon? If not, why not? Were they open to conception?

E. MARRIED LIFE

29. Where did you live together as husband and wife?

30. Were both of you happy in the marriage? If not, explain fully with details regarding the nature of the problems. How soon into the marriage did they start?

31. a) Describe your ability to communicate. How did each of you resolve your differences, problems, and conflicts?

b) What were the major conflicts in the marriage? When did they arise? What caused them? How did each of you respond? How would you describe the arguments between you and your former spouse?

32. a) Describe the sexual relationship during the marriage and the sensitivity of each to the other's needs.
- b) Was either of you surprised or shocked after marriage to learn about sexuality or sexual relations?
- c) Were you both willing partners in the sexual relationship?

33. Was there any physical, sexual, or emotional mistreatment of either spouse toward the other? If so, describe.

34. a) Were children born to you and your former spouse? If so, please list whether son or daughter and provide month/day/year of birth for each.

Name	Date of Birth	son /daughter
------	---------------	---------------

- b) How did each of you relate to your children?
- c) If no children were born, why not?
- d) Did either one of you change your mind about having children during the marriage? Please explain.

35. a) Did **you** keep company with anyone else during the marriage? If so, when did the relationship begin and what was the extent of the involvement? Please elaborate as much as possible regarding the relationship.
- b) Did **your former spouse** keep company with anyone else during the marriage? If so, when did the relationship begin and what was the extent of the involvement? Please elaborate as much as possible regarding the relationship.
- c) Did you or your former spouse correspond or keep in touch with old friends of the opposite sex? If so, what effect did this have on the marriage?
- d) Did either of you begin or maintain a relationship that became more important than that of you and your former spouse? Please explain.
36. a) Was there abuse of alcohol or any other drug (illegal, prescription, over-the-counter, etc.)? Describe.
- b) Was there gambling? Describe
- c) Was there any other addiction/obsession?
- d) Were any of the problems in the marriage of a psychological nature? If so, explain.

37. Was counseling sought? Who was the counselor? What was the outcome of counseling?

38. In brief, why do you think the marriage broke up? Please be explicit.

F. SEPARATIONS & DIVORCE

39. a) How many separations were there before the last one?

b) When did each separation occur? Please give specific dates including months/years.

c) **What** and **who** caused each separation?

d) Why did you go back together?

e) How much effort did each of you make toward a lasting reconciliation?

40. **What** and **who** caused the **final** separation? When did it occur? Please give specific month/year.

41. a) Who first mentioned the possibility of divorce? When and why did this occur?

b) Was the divorce sought immediately? If “no”, why not?

c) Who filed for the divorce?

42. If children were born of the marriage,

a) Who has physical custody?

b) Who supports them?

c) Who has the legal right to determine their education, medical and other issues?

d) If there are visitation rights, are they exercised?

e) Are the best interests of the children being met in regards to their physical, cultural, moral, and religious upbringing? If not, why not?

43. Are both you and your former spouse meeting all civil/moral obligations to each other and any children?

44. What is your estimate now of the character and personality of your former spouse?

45. Today, does your former spouse tend to be a truthful person? Why do you so answer?

46. a) Have you tried to enlist the cooperation of your former spouse in this Tribunal process? What was his/her reaction? Will s/he be willing, when contacted by the Tribunal, to participate?

b) Have your witnesses been approached by you to ensure their cooperation?

47. Do you solemnly affirm that you have told the whole truth as you know it?

Petitioner Signature

Date

Print name of Priest, Deacon or Lay Minister

Parish, City

Signature of Priest, Deacon or Lay Minister

Date

(Parish Seal)

Priest, Deacon or Lay Minister:

Please include your own observations. They will be helpful in processing this case for your client.