



Items Required for Introduction of Nullity Cases

(Revised 2024)

1. **Fully completed CURRENT [Petition for Investigation of a Marriage Bond](#)** for each marriage under review.
2. **Fully completed CURRENT** Questionnaire appropriate to the case under review; please see [Type of Nullity Cases](#).
3. **Copy** of civil marriage certificate for marriage under review. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE OBTAIN, ALSO, THE APPLICATION FOR THE CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE AND THE LICENSE ITSELF from the County Clerk. For records in Texas since January 1966, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of Health, 1100 W 49th St, Austin TX 78756, **1-(888) 963-7111, ext. 2150 or (512) 776-2150, or** at <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/>. For Dallas County, contact the Dallas County Clerk's office at Vitals Division, Records Building, Second Floor, 509 Main Street, Suite 200, Dallas TX 75202-3551, (214) 653-7131 or www.dallascounty.org/records.php.
For *ligamen* cases, not only do we need a copy of the civil marriage certificate for the marriage under review, but also a **copy** of the civil marriage certificate for the marriage that will serve as the binding bond.
4. **Copy of complete, final, signed, civil divorce decree filed in county in which divorce took place** for marriage under review. These documents can be obtained from the District or Circuit Court Clerk. Records in Texas since March 1968 can be obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of Health, 1100 W 49th St, Austin TX 78756, **1-(888) 963-7111, ext. 2150 or (512) 776-2150, or** at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/vs/>; or if you know it took place in Dallas, contact the District Clerk, 600 Commerce Street, Dallas TX 75202, (214) 653-6136, www.dallascounty.org/records.php.
For *ligamen* cases, not only do we need a copy of the civil divorce decree for the marriage under review, but also a **copy** of the complete, final, signed, civil divorce decree filed in the county in which the divorce took place for the marriage that will serve as the binding bond.
5. **Current (issued within the last six months) baptismal certificate with notations for Catholic Petitioner** can be obtained from the church of baptism. Submit the original (not a photocopy) of the recently issued certificate.
6. **Current (issued within the last six months) baptismal certificate with notations for Catholic Respondent** can be obtained from the church of baptism, or the church of marriage can provide, for the Respondent's baptismal information, the name of the church and baptismal date from the marriage register. Submit the original (not a photocopy) of the recently issued certificate. (Normally, the Petitioner cannot obtain this certificate but must rely on the Case Sponsor/Advocate or Tribunal to do so.)
7. **Catholic Church marriage certificate (issued within the last six months)** for marriage under review can be obtained from church of marriage.
8. **Copy** of the prenuptial papers for marriage under review can be obtained from the church of marriage. (Normally, the Petitioner cannot obtain a copy of the prenuptial papers but must rely on the Case Sponsor/Advocate or Tribunal to do so.)

9. As provided for on the Petition, the names and addresses of four witnesses, in addition to parents and stepparents, who are knowledgeable about the courtship and early marriage of the parties. (Include relationship to these witnesses and the length of time known.) A counselor or counselors, who counseled one or both parties either prior to the marriage or during the marriage, can be considered as one or more of the four witnesses. Counselors require releases completed by each party seen.

Before proposing any witnesses, including an expert or counselor, the Petitioner or Respondent should verify that the witness is willing to be contacted and to provide in-depth answers.

10. Copy of the letter to the Respondent informing him/her of the Petition and inviting the Respondent's participation, prepared by the Advocate.
11. Character Reference Questionnaires (credibility references) **ONLY IF REQUESTED BY TRIBUNAL.** Character references/credibility witnesses are people who, from a lengthy association, have sufficient knowledge to speak to the good name of the Petitioner or Respondent to confirm the veracity of the Petitioner and/or Respondent regarding her/his confessions/declarations.
12. **Copies** of any public documents, not protected by laws of privacy, that would clarify the circumstances of the marriage and its demise as those circumstances might relate to invalidity. These public documents might include counselors' reports, medical records legally in the possession of the Petitioner, police records, evaluations done for custody hearings, investigations made by Child Protective Services, etc. The Petitioner should submit only documents in his/her legal possession.

Please note that some documents will require the Case Sponsor or Advocate's signature and parish seal.

The case, once ready for presentation, should be mailed to the Tribunal:

Tribunal
Diocese of Dallas
3725 Blackburn Street
PO Box 190507
Dallas TX 75219

Should there be questions, contact the Tribunal at (214) 379-2840 or tribunal@cathdal.org.