

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING DEFECT OF FORM CASES**

1. Basic requirements for the Decree of Nullity:
  - A. Petition form submitted by a Catholic or a non-Catholic whose former marriage was to a Catholic.
  - B. Two witnesses who can testify that the attempted marriage was never convalidated, did not involve a dispensation from the canonical form, and was entered into by at least one Catholic who had not renounced the faith by formally affiliating with another religious sect.
  - C. Recent baptismal certificate for the Catholic Petitioner (**if the Petitioner is a non-Catholic, a recent baptismal certificate for the Catholic Respondent MUST be submitted**).
  - D. Record of attempted (i.e. invalid) marriage.
  - E. Final decree of civil divorce or civil annulment.
2. All questions should be answered fully on the proper Tribunal forms.
3. The priest/deacon/pastoral associate alone is to record the responses of the persons questioned.
4. The completed forms are to be duly signed by the petitioner and the witnesses as well as the interviewer. They should be properly dated and imprinted with the church seal.
5. Any special problems relating to the case in question should be outlined in writing and submitted to the Tribunal with the case.
6. A fee of **\$75.00** is required for the processing of the case. The check or money order is to be made payable to the **Archdiocese of Newark**.
7. The Decree of Nullity is granted ordinarily the day the investigation is completed. Delays in procedure can be reduced to a minimum if all the above suggestions are observed in submitted cases.
8. When the Ecclesiastical Decree of Nullity is granted by the Tribunal, this document should be preserved with the documents concerning any new marriage.

**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK  
MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL  
PETITION FOR A DECREE OF NULLITY**

\*\*\*\*\*

For Tribunal use only:

|                      |       |               |       |
|----------------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Competence           | _____ | Witness 1     | _____ |
| Baptism Certificate  | _____ | Witness 2     | _____ |
| Marriage Certificate | _____ | Search (NWK)  | _____ |
| Civil Divorce Decree | _____ | Search (Otro) | _____ |

Granted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

THE PETITIONER WILL ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS THAT PERTAIN TO THE MARRIED COUPLE IN QUESTION.

**PETITIONER**

**RESPONDENT (EX-SPOUSE)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Name _____<br><b>(If woman, give maiden, married and present name)</b> | 1. Name _____<br><b>(If woman, give maiden, married and present name)</b> |
| 2. Address _____  | 2. Address _____  |
| 3. Place of Birth: _____  | 3. Place of Birth: _____  |
| 4. Date of Birth: _____   | 4. Date of Birth: _____   |
| 5. Religion: _____  | 5. Religion: _____  |
| 6. Baptized Where: _____  | 6. Baptized Where: _____  |
| Date of Baptism: _____  | Date of Baptism: _____  |
| 7. Father's name: _____   | 7. Father's name: _____   |
| 8. Mother's maiden name: _____  | 8. Mother's maiden name: _____  |

**MARRIAGE IN QUESTION**

9. Place: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Before whom?  
Roman Catholic Priest? \_\_\_\_\_  
Someone else? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Did you seek permission to be married outside the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Date and place of civil divorce or annulment of this marriage. \_\_\_\_\_

14. Have either you or your former spouse officially joined any religious sect other than the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when and where; and are you still a member of that sect? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Was either party married before? (If so, give details: names, dates, places of marriage and kind of ceremony.) \_\_\_\_\_

16. Was your marriage ever revalidated in the Catholic Church; i.e. was it ever blessed by a priest? If so, please give details, name of priest, date of marriage, name and address of parish.) \_\_\_\_\_

17. Do you solemnly swear before God and in conscience to the truth of the above? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of priest/deacon/pastoral associate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish

Please affix the church seal to this document

**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK**  
**MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL**  
171 CLIFTON AVENUE  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104  
**WITNESS FORM ONE**

THIS FORM IS USED TO ESTABLISH THE FACT THAT THE MARRIAGE TO BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID WAS NEVER CONVALIDATED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

I do solemnly swear that I shall tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

1. What is your full name? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How long have you known the Petitioner? \_\_\_\_\_

3. If he/she was baptized, how do you know this fact? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. When and where did the couple in question marry? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Was it before a civil authority, a non-Catholic clergyperson or a Roman Catholic Priest?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Was their marriage ever con-validated (i.e. blessed) by a Catholic Priest? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Was either party to this marriage ever married before? If so, please give details. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Has the Catholic party in this marriage ever officially become affiliated with any other religious sect? If so, please give details. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you know whether the parties involved ever obtained permission from the Chancery Office to be married outside the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of priest/deacon/pastoral associate: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Please affix the church seal to this document

**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK**  
**MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL**  
171 CLIFTON AVENUE  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104  
**WITNESS FORM TWO**

THIS FORM IS USED TO ESTABLISH THE FACT THAT THE MARRIAGE TO BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID WAS NEVER CONVALIDATED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

I do solemnly swear that I shall tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

1. What is your full name? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How long have you known the Petitioner? \_\_\_\_\_

3. If he/she was baptized, how do you know this fact? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. When and where did the couple in question marry? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Was it before a civil authority, a non-Catholic clergyperson or a Roman Catholic Priest?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Was their marriage ever con-validated (i.e. blessed) by a Catholic Priest? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Was either party to this marriage ever married before? If so, please give details. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Has the Catholic party in this marriage ever officially become affiliated with any other religious sect? If so, please give details. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you know whether the parties involved ever obtained permission from the Chancery Office to be married outside the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of priest/deacon/pastoral associate: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Please affix the church seal to this document