

THE TRIBUNAL
EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON
OF BROOKLYN
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PETITIONER'S FORMAL QUESTIONNAIRE

YOUR FAMILY AND PERSONAL HISTORY

1. Do you remember your early home life as being a happy period? Please explain.
2. Were you reared outside of your family home? If yes, please explain.
3. Were both parents natural parents? If no, please explain.
4. Describe the relationship that your parents had with each other. Did you have any problems relating to either of them? If so, please explain.
5. What was the religion of your parents and to what extent did they practice it?
6. Were there any divorces, separations or remarriages in your immediate family? If yes, please explain.
7. How would you describe the socio-economic background of your family (*for example, wealthy, middle class, poor*)?
8. Did your family move during your childhood? If so, how often?

9. Describe the use of alcohol/drugs in your family (*for example, by parents, grandparents, siblings*).
10. Did anyone in your family ever have legal problems? If yes, please explain, describing what influence this had on the family and you.
11. How was emotion displayed in the family, including the manner in which conflict was resolved and affection demonstrated?
12. Were there any incidents of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in the family? If yes, please explain.
13. Were there any recurring family problems, such as chronic illness or unemployment? If yes, please explain. How old were you when these occurred?
14. Was psychiatric/psychological care ever required by you, your parents or siblings? If yes, please explain.
15. How many brothers and sisters did you have? What was your numerical position? How well did you get along with them and what is your present relationship with them?
16. Did you feel rejected at any time? At what age(s)? If yes, please describe.
17. Did you feel that your parents gave you the same degree of freedom and independence as others in your age group?
18. Who was responsible for disciplining you? Was discipline accepted or did you in any way become resentful or rebellious?

19. Did you have any serious health problems or recurring illnesses? If yes, please explain.
20. To what extent did you practice your religion?
21. Did you experience any emotional difficulties while growing up? If yes, please explain.
22. How was the topic of sex treated in your family? How did you learn about sex?
23. In general terms, how did you relate to people of the opposite sex?
24. In general terms, how did you relate to people of the same sex?
25. As you progressed through adolescence, what career plans and general life goals (short or long-term), if any, did you develop?
26. What was the highest grade level of education you completed? If you did not complete high school, please explain.
27. Did you use alcohol or street drugs before you met your former spouse? If so, describe your pattern of usage?
28. Did you have any difficulties with gambling? If so, please explain.
29. Did you have any problems with the law? If so, please explain.

30. Describe briefly your job history (including part-time work) after age 16 and before marriage.
31. If you were in military service, describe your duties and assignments. When and why did you enter and leave? What type of discharge did you receive?
32. At what age did you begin dating?
33. How did your parents feel about your dating and/or dating patterns?
34. Did you have any serious dating relationships before meeting your spouse? Any previous engagements? Please explain.
35. How well did your family background prepare you for marriage? Please explain.
36. Did anything about your home situation influence your decision to marry? If yes, please explain.
37. Please indicate any other pertinent issues from your family or personal background that have not been addressed in the preceding responses.

YOUR FORMER SPOUSE'S FAMILY AND PERSONAL HISTORY

38. Did your former spouse remember his/her home life as being a happy period? Please explain.
39. Was your former spouse reared outside of the family home? If yes, please explain.

40. Were both parents natural parents? If not, please explain.
41. Describe the relationship that your former spouse's parents had with each other. Did he/she have any problems relating to either of them? If so, please explain.
42. What was the religion of your former spouse's parents and to what extent did they practice it?
43. Were there any divorces, separations or remarriages in your former spouse's immediate family? If yes, please explain.
44. How would you describe the socio-economic background of your former spouse's family (*for example, wealthy, middle class, poor*)?
45. Did your former spouse's family move during his/her childhood? If so, how often?
46. Describe the use of alcohol/drugs in your former spouse's family (*for example parents, grandparents, siblings*).
47. Did anyone in your former spouse's family ever have legal problems? If yes, please explain, describing what influence this had on your former spouse and on his/her family.
48. How was emotion displayed in the family, including the manner in which conflict was resolved and affection demonstrated?
49. Were there any incidents of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in the family? If yes, please explain.

50. Were there any recurring family problems such as chronic illness or unemployment? If yes, please explain. How old was your former spouse when these occurred?
51. Was psychiatric/psychological care ever required by your former spouse, your former spouse's parents or siblings? If yes, please explain.
52. How many brothers and sisters did your former spouse have? What was your former spouse's numerical position? How well did your former spouse get along with them and what is your former spouse's present relationship with them?
53. Did your former spouse feel rejected at any time? At what age(s)? If yes, please explain.
54. Did your former spouse feel that his/her parents gave him/her the same degree of freedom and independence as others in his/her age group?
55. Who was responsible for disciplining your former spouse? Was discipline accepted or did he/she in any way become resentful or rebellious?
56. Did your former spouse have any serious health problems or recurring illnesses? If yes, please explain.
57. To what extent did your former spouse practice his/her religion?
58. Did your former spouse experience any emotional difficulties while growing up? If yes, please explain.

59. How was the topic of sex treated in your former spouse's family? How did your former spouse learn about sex?
60. In general terms, how did your former spouse relate to people of the opposite sex?
61. In general terms, how did your former spouse relate to people of the same sex?
62. As your former spouse progressed through adolescence, what career plans and general life goals (short or long-term), if any, did he/she develop?
63. What was the highest grade level of education your former spouse completed? If your former spouse did not complete high school, please explain the reasons why.
64. Did your former spouse use alcohol or street drugs before you met him/her? If so, describe his/her pattern of usage?
65. Did your former spouse develop any difficulties with gambling? If so, please explain.
66. Did your former spouse have any problems with the law? If yes, please describe.
67. Describe briefly your former spouse's job history (including part-time work) after age 16 and before marriage.
68. If your former spouse was in military service describe his/her duties and assignments. When and why did he/she enter and leave? What type of discharge did he/she receive?
69. At what age did your former spouse begin dating?

70. How did your former spouse's parents feel about his/her dating and/or dating patterns?
71. Did your former spouse have any serious dating relationships before meeting you? Any previous engagements? Please explain.
72. How well did your former spouse's family background prepare him/her for marriage? Please explain.
73. Did anything about your former spouse's home situation influence the decision to marry? If yes, please explain.
74. Please indicate any other pertinent issues from your former spouse's family or personal background that have not been addressed in the preceding responses.

COURTSHIP

75. How and when did you meet your former spouse?
76. Were either of you on the rebound from another relationship? If so, please explain.
77. How frequently did you date once you became attracted to each other?
78. Did you share mutual interests such as movies, dinner, sports, theater? Other activities? Please explain.

79. In addition to romantic attraction, what other personal qualities did you find appealing in your former spouse? What qualities in you interested your former spouse?
80. Do you believe that your former spouse was able to display appropriate affectionate interest in you during the courtship? If not, please explain.
81. Were either of you bothered by the way affection was expressed during the courtship? If yes, please explain.
82. Was there a premarital sexual relationship and, if so, did it place any pressure on your decision to marry? If yes, please explain.
83. Did you feel any pressure of any kind to maintain or continue the relationship during the courtship? If yes, please explain.
84. How fully did you communicate with each other during the courtship? Were you able to discuss and calmly resolve differences and disagreements? If no, please explain.
85. Who initially brought up the topic of marriage? How long did you know your former spouse before discussing marriage?
86. At the time of your marriage, did each of you feel that you could commit yourself to each other for the rest of your lives? If no, please explain.
87. Was there any indication that either of you thought lightly of fidelity prior to the marriage? If yes, please explain.

88. Were either of you involved with anyone other than each other during the courtship? If yes, please explain.
89. Did either of you enter this marriage with the attitude: "If this doesn't work out, we can always get divorced?" If yes, please explain.
90. When you married, did you both intend the marriage to last for the rest of your lives? If not, please explain.
91. Did you discuss any plans about having children? If yes, what were your plans?
92. Prior to the marriage, did either place any condition on the marriage such as: "I will only marry you if . . ." or "I will remain married to you provided that . . ." If yes, please explain.
93. Was there any quality about the other person that, had you been aware of it, you would never have entered the marriage? Was this quality deliberately concealed from you? If yes, please explain.
94. Was there any force or pressure such as threats, physical harm, an unbearable home situation, etc. to make either party marry? If yes, please explain.
95. Were there any conflicts related to careers, future family goals or expectations? If yes, please explain.
96. Did you and your former spouse have definite career goals? Were they realized prior to your marriage?

97. Was there ever a pregnancy involved before marriage? If yes, how did this affect the decision to marry?
98. Did any other factor hasten your decision to marry? If yes, please explain.
99. Were any pre-marital instructions given by a priest or minister? Did you attend a Pre-Cana program? Did these sessions cause any questions or problems?
100. Were there any arguments during the courtship? Over what issues? How were these arguments usually resolved? Was either of you more inclined to give in to the other? Please explain.
101. Were there any incidents of emotional, sexual or physical abuse? If yes, please explain.
102. Were there any interruptions or breakups during the courtship? If yes, please explain.
103. Did you have any concerns about your former spouse during the courtship? If yes, please explain.
104. Did either of you express a concern or doubt about the impending marriage? If yes, please explain.
105. What were your families' reactions to your engagement?

106. Did you and your former spouse sign a prenuptial agreement? If yes, what did it cover and why was it necessary? Can you furnish us with a copy? If so, please enclose.
107. Did you or your former spouse use alcohol or street drugs during the courtship? If so, please explain
108. What was the attitude of each of you toward the practice of religion? Was there any conflict about this?
109. Did either of you have any significant physical health problems? If yes, please explain.
110. Did either of you have any significant emotional problems? If yes, please explain.
111. Did either of you have any psychiatric/psychological counseling during the courtship? If yes, please explain.
112. During your courtship, do you think you were both sufficiently mature and emotionally ready to commit yourselves to marriage? If not, please explain.
113. Do you think you both had an adequate understanding of what married life entailed? If not, please explain.
114. Are there any other pertinent issues about the courtship you would like to mention that have not been expressed in the previous responses?

WEDDING AND HONEYMOON

- 115. In what ways did you and your former spouse share in the planning of your wedding?
- 116. Did either of you have any second thoughts in the final days leading up to the wedding? Was this discussed with anyone? If yes, please explain.
- 117. Did anyone express concerns or doubts to you as the wedding day approached? How did you respond?
- 118. Has anyone told you since of his or her doubts before the wedding? If yes, please explain.
- 119. What was your attitude during the wedding ceremony?
- 120. Were there any unusual incidents during the day? If yes, please explain.
- 121. If you went on a honeymoon, did you stay as long as planned? Were there any unusual incidents? Was your former spouse's behavior what you expected? Please explain.
- 122. Was the marriage consummated at this time? If not, was it ever consummated?

MARRIED LIFE

- 123. How would you describe the initial adjustments to married life?

124. Was your early married life what you expected it to be? Please explain.
125. How far along in the marriage did serious problems begin to appear? Please explain.
- .
126. How well did you communicate with each other?
127. Were you able to share affection with each other? Please explain.
128. Was your intimate, sexual relationship mutually satisfying? If not, please explain.
129. How were major decisions reached in the marriage?
130. Describe your respective relationships with friends during the marriage. Did either of you see these as a problem?
131. Were both of you employed outside the home? If so, did your work schedules or patterns ever become a burden on the marriage? If so, please explain.
132. Did either of you have hobbies or outside interests that kept you away from each other or caused a problem? If yes, please explain.
133. Did you engage in mutual activities and have mutual interests outside the home? Please explain.

134. How did parents and in-laws influence the marriage?
135. Describe the use of alcohol/drugs by each party during the marriage. Did either of you see the other's use of alcohol or drugs as a problem? Please explain.
136. Were either of you ever hospitalized or treated for emotional or psychological problems during the marriage? If yes, please explain.
137. Was gambling or financial irresponsibility evident in the marriage? Please explain.
138. Were there any marital infidelities? If yes, please explain.
139. What in your opinion were the major disagreements or differences in your marriage?
140. Do you believe that both you and your former spouse acted responsibly in matters of household and family obligations? If not, please explain.
141. Did pregnancy affect your marital relationship in any significant way?
142. If you had children, how well were they accepted and cared for by each of you?
143. If you agreed to postpone children, please explain why and when this decision was made. Was it a mutual decision?

144. If you did not have children, why not?
145. If no children were born of the marriage, were sexual relations ever engaged in without the use of a contraceptive?
146. Was there any emotional, sexual or physical abuse during the marriage? If so, please explain.
147. List the major problems which, in your opinion, led to the marital breakdown.
148. How did you contribute to the marital breakdown?
149. How did your former spouse contribute to the marital breakdown?
150. Was marriage counseling ever attempted in an effort to salvage the marriage? If so, how helpful was it? What did you learn from it?

SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

151. How many separations were there during the course of the marriage?
152. What was the cause of the final separation? Who left whom?
153. Were you and your former spouse both convinced that the marriage was over? If no, please explain.

154. Were there any attempts at reconciliation? By whom? When and what were the results?

155. Is there still any possibility or hope of a reconciliation? Please explain.

156. Is there anything else about your marriage you would like to mention that has not been expressed in your previous responses (*please use an additional sheet if necessary*)?

Please list the names and addresses of four (4) witnesses who know the facts and circumstances of your marriage, and **who have agreed to give testimony** on your behalf.

1) _____
Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone: Home (include area code) Work

Relationship

E-mail address

2) _____
Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone: Home (include area code) Work

Relationship

E-mail address

3) _____
Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone: Home (include area code) Work

Relationship

E-mail address

4) _____
Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone: Home (include area code) Work

Relationship

E-mail address

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE PETITION AND FORMAL QUESTIONNAIRE:

1. **Baptismal Certificate(s) for both Parties** (if baptized) **dated within the last six (6) months**, with the **Parish Seal** embossed thereon and contain all relevant notations or a statement of “no notations”.
2. **Marriage Certificate dated within the last six (6) months with the Parish Seal** embossed thereon.
3. **Final Civil Divorce Decree** (a **certified copy** and NOT just a photocopy).
4. **Required Fee Deposit:** a check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) must be submitted with this questionnaire to secure the costs and expenses in this cause. If the case is not accepted for adjudication, the deposit will be refunded. If the Petitioner is financially unable to post this amount, the previous year’s Income Tax Return should be submitted to support the claim and alternate arrangements will be made with the Petitioner by the Tribunal.
5. **Required Opinion of the Parish Priest:** The Parish or other Priest who assists the Petitioner in the preparation of this questionnaire is requested to submit his written opinion of his interview with the Petitioner with special reference to the reasons for the failure of the marriage.

When you have completed this questionnaire and filled out all information for your witnesses, please send it the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, The Tribunal Office, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503