

THE TRIBUNAL
EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN

300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503-1279
Tel: (570) 207-2246 - Fax: (570) 207-2274
email: MaroniteTribunal@aol.com

PETITION

With the enclosed information, I, the undersigned Petitioner, acting pursuant to *CCEO* cc.1360, § 1, 1° and 1185 *et seq.*, hereby request the Tribunal of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn to declare my marriage to the hereinafter-named Respondent null and void under the applicable provisions of ecclesiastical law.

I verily believe and therefore assert that the canonical grounds on which the marriage should be declared null are defect of consent and/or simulation of marriage.

The Tribunal is competent to adjudicate this cause pursuant to *CCEO* c. 1358.

In regard to the adjudication of my petition, I understand that:

- The investigation of the possible invalidity of my marriage is a purely spiritual matter that pertains solely to the teachings and discipline of the Catholic Church;
- If a decree of nullity should be granted, the Tribunal's decision would have absolutely no civil effects in the United States of America regarding the legitimacy, custody or financial support of children, spousal alimony, division of property or any other matter(s) which have been or may be adjudicated by a civil court;
- No assurance can be given of an affirmative decision (that is, one granting the annulment) nor as to a definite time for the completion of the canonical process;
- No arrangements can be made for a future Catholic marriage or convalidation until after I have received a final and favorable decision from the Tribunal;
- If the circumstances causing the invalidity of the marriage so indicate, the Tribunal may require counseling and/or a professional evaluation before a marriage in the Church is permitted;
- Normally, the information provided by me in the attached Petitioner's Formal Questionnaire eliminates the need for a personal interview. However, the Tribunal always has the right to request a personal interview with me and/or my witnesses.
- I understand that any allegation of or testimony or information that raises the reasonable suspicion of the **sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable person** must be reported by the Tribunal to the proper civil authorities if the civil law so requires;

- The Respondent (my former spouse) is entitled to know about and to participate in these proceedings and, he/she must be notified by the Tribunal of the pendency of this process and given an opportunity to participate. Furthermore, I am aware that his/her rights include:
 - knowing the basis for my petition;
 - offering testimony and/or witnesses which may support or challenge it;
 - the possibility of reviewing my testimony and that of my witnesses;
 - challenging or appealing the decision of this Tribunal to that of a higher Church court.

I hereby consent to the possibility that the Tribunal may need to disclose my testimony to the following: the parties of the case (Petitioner, Respondent and Defender of the Bond), clinical experts, and/or another Church tribunal. This consent is also extended to other Church officials or professionals whose permission, opinions or reports may be needed in order to arrange for a future Catholic marriage for either myself or the Respondent.

AFFIDAVIT OF THE PETITIONER

I SOLEMNLY AFFIRM before Almighty God and my conscience that I present this testimony in good faith, and that the answers I have given are entirely true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Petitioner
(if female, sign maiden name)

[This affidavit should be signed in the presence of and then notarized by a Catholic priest or deacon at a local Catholic Church or a Notary Public.]

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED by the Petitioner at _____ (city),
 _____ (state) on _____ (date).

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at the place and on the date aforesaid.

Signature of Priest, Deacon or Notary Public

[Church or Notarial Seal]

[Note to Notary Public: for reasons of confidentiality, it is not appropriate for you to review the contents of this questionnaire; and the same is true for a Catholic priest or deacon who is acting only as a notary. This does not apply to a Catholic priest or deacon who, as a part of his pastoral office, has assisted the Petitioner in the preparation of the Petition and also then acts as a notary.]

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THE MARRIAGE IN QUESTION
CONCERNING YOU

Your present name: _____
Your maiden name (if a woman): _____
Your complete address _____

(Street, City, State, Zip Code)
Your daytime phone number: _____ Your home phone number: _____
Your cell hone number: _____ Your email address: _____
What is your occupation/employment? _____
Your date of birth: _____ Your place of birth: _____
Who referred you to the Tribunal? _____
Were you ever baptized? Yes () No () Date _____ Denomination: _____
Your religion at the time of marriage (rite if Catholic): _____
Your present religion (rite if Catholic): _____
The church you attend: _____

(Name and address of Church)

CONCERNING YOUR FORMER SPOUSE

His/Her present name: _____
His/Her maiden name (if a woman): _____
His/Her complete address _____

(Street, City, State, Zip Code)
His/Her daytime phone number: _____ His/Her home phone number: _____
His/Her cell hone number: _____ His/Her email address: _____
What is his/her occupation/employment? _____
His/Her date of birth: _____ His/Her place of birth: _____
Was he/she ever baptized? Yes () No () Date: _____ Denomination: _____
His/Her religion at the time of marriage (rite if Catholic): _____
His/Her present religion (rite if Catholic): _____
The church he/she attends: _____

(Name and address of Church)

Will he/she cooperate/participate in this case: Yes () No ()

CONCERNING THE MARRIAGE

Length of courtship: _____
Date of marriage: (month, day, year) _____
Place: (city, state or country) _____
Type of Ceremony: () Maronite () Other Eastern Catholic () Latin Catholic () Orthodox
() Civil () Other Religion

Place of marriage: _____
(Name and address of Church or other place)
How many children were born/adopted in this marriage? _____
Who has principal custody now? _____
Has any child support assessed by the civil courts been fully met? _____
Approximate date of final separation: _____
Date of civil divorce: (month, day, year) _____
Name of Court that granted civil divorce: _____
Who filed and obtained divorce? _____
Have you ever petitioned for an annulment through another Tribunal? _____
If so, when and where? _____

PRIOR MARRIAGES CONCERNING YOU

Did you ever enter any marriage(s) before the one in question? Yes () No ()
If yes, with whom? _____
Was he/she ever baptized? Yes () No () Date: _____ Denomination: _____
His/Her religion (rite if Catholic): _____
Date of marriage: (month, day, year) _____
Type of Ceremony: () Maronite () Other Eastern Catholic () Latin Catholic () Orthodox
() Civil () Other Religion
Place of marriage: _____
(Name and address of Church or other place)
Date of civil divorce: (month, day, year) _____
Name of Court that granted civil divorce: _____
Has this previous marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church? Yes () No ()
If so, when and where? _____

CONCERNING YOUR FORMER SPOUSE

Did he/she ever enter any marriage(s) before his/her marriage to you? Yes () No ()
If yes, with whom? _____
Was he/she ever baptized? Yes () No () Date: _____ Denomination: _____
His/Her religion (rite if Catholic): _____
Date of marriage: (month, day, year) _____
Type of Ceremony: () Maronite () Other Eastern Catholic () Latin Catholic () Orthodox
() Civil () Other Religion
Place of marriage: _____
(Name and address of Church or other place)
Date of civil divorce: (month, day, year) _____
Name of Court that granted civil divorce: _____
Has this previous marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church? Yes () No ()
If so, when and where? _____

SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGES CONCERNING YOU

Have you entered any marriages after the one in question? Yes () No ()

If yes, with whom? _____

Was he/she ever baptized? Yes () No () Date: _____ Denomination: _____

His/Her religion (rite if Catholic): _____

Date of marriage: (*month, day, year*) _____

Type of Ceremony: () Maronite () Other Eastern Catholic () Latin Catholic () Orthodox
() Civil () Other Religion

Place of marriage: _____

(Name and address of Church or other place)

Was this spouse married before? Yes () No ()

Are you still married to this spouse? Yes () No ()

If no, date of civil divorce: (*month, day, year*) _____

Name of Court that granted civil divorce: _____

Has this subsequent marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church? Yes () No ()

If so, when and where? _____

What is your present marital status? _____

CONCERNING YOUR FORMER SPOUSE

Is he/she presently remarried? Yes () No ()

If yes, is his/her present spouse Catholic? Yes () No ()

CONTEMPLATED MARRIAGE

If you have not entered any marriages after the one in question, are you currently planning on remarrying in the Catholic Church? Yes () No ()

If yes, with whom? _____

Was he/she ever baptized? Yes () No () Date: _____ Denomination: _____

His/Her religion (rite if Catholic): _____

Was this spouse married before? Yes () No ()

If yes, date of his/her prior marriage: (*month, day, year*) _____

Type of Ceremony: () Maronite () Other Eastern Catholic () Latin Catholic () Orthodox
() Civil () Other Religion

Place of marriage: _____

(Name and address of Church or other place)

Is his/her previous spouse still living? Yes () No ()

If no, date and place of the previous spouse's death: _____

If yes, are he/she and his/her previous spouse civilly divorced? Yes () No ()

If so, date of civil divorce: (*month, day, year*) _____

Name of Court that granted civil divorce: _____

Has his/her previous marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church? Yes () No ()

If so, when and where? _____