

**Office Use Only** Date Rec'd: .....

Case Name: .....

Case #: .....

Docket #: .....



**PETITION FOR A  
DECLARATION OF NULLITY**

Diocese of La Crosse

Diocese of La Crosse Tribunal · 3710 East Ave S. · P.O. Box 4004 · La Crosse WI 54602-4004 · (608) 791-2684 · tribunal@diolc.org

PETITIONER (YOU)	RESPONDENT (FORMER SPOUSE)
Current Name: .....	Current Name: .....
Maiden Name (if applicable): .....	Maiden Name (if applicable): .....
Present Address: .....	Present Address: .....
City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....	City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....
Telephone: .....	Telephone: .....
Email: .....	Email: .....
Date of birth: ..... City: .....	Date of birth: ..... City: .....
Baptized? Yes No If so, date: .....	Baptized? Yes No If so, date: .....
Church of baptism: .....	Church of baptism: .....
City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....	City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....
Age at time of marriage: .....	Age at time of marriage: .....
Your religion at time of marriage: .....	His/her religion at time of marriage: .....
Your religion currently: .....	His/her religion currently: .....

**CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP**

Date when courtship began: ..... Length of Courtship prior to engagement: .....

Date of engagement: ..... Length of engagement prior to marriage: .....

Date of marriage: ..... Length of marriage prior to divorce: .....

Church or place of marriage: .....

Address of church or place of marriage: .....

Minister or officiant of marriage: ..... Denomination (if applicable): .....

If a civil marriage, was it ever “blessed” / “validated” in the Catholic Church? Yes No If so, where: .....

Was permission given to get married outside the Catholic Church? Yes No

Did the Catholic party FORMALLY leave the Catholic Church? Yes No

Date of separation: ..... Date of divorce: ..... County, state of divorce: .....

CHILDREN BORN OF THIS MARRIAGE

Name:..... Date of birth:.....
Name:..... Date of birth:.....
Name:..... Date of birth:.....
Name:..... Date of birth:.....
Name:..... Date of birth:.....
Name:..... Date of birth:.....

Has either party ever petitioned for a declaration of nullity of this marriage, whether before this tribunal or another tribunal? No Yes If so, please indicate where and when: .....

INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER MARRIAGES

Was this the first marriage for both of you? Yes No

Please indicate any other marriages contracted by either party, whether before or after the marriage in question. If more space is needed, please include those marriages on a separate sheet.

PETITIONER RESPONDENT

Spouse:..... Check all that apply below:
Religion of spouse:..... If Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:.....
Date of marriage:..... Location:..... If former spouse is deceased, give date of death:.....
Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church? ..... If civil divorce, give date of divorce:.....

PETITIONER RESPONDENT

Spouse:..... Check all that apply below:
Religion of spouse:..... If Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:.....
Date of marriage:..... Location:..... If former spouse is deceased, give date of death:.....
Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church? ..... If civil divorce, give date of divorce:.....

PETITIONER'S CURRENT INTENTIONS

I have no plans to enter marriage OR Name of intended spouse:.....
Religion of intended spouse:.....
Has he/she ever been previously married? Yes\* No
If yes, was an annulment granted for this marriage? Yes No

\*If yes, please note that this other person is not free to marry in the Catholic Church unless his/her previous spouse has died or the marriage is declared invalid consequent to a separate petition for a declaration of nullity or a lack of canonical form.

## WITNESSES

Please provide the names and complete addresses of the people who from personal observation would be willing and able to give information about you, your former spouse, and the problems which existed in the marriage, especially in the very early years of the marriage, and even before you were married. (Indicate whether they're relatives, friends, neighbors, etc.)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WITNESS # 1</b></p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Address: .....</p> <p>City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....</p> <p>Relationship to the parties:.....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WITNESS # 2</b></p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Address: .....</p> <p>City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....</p> <p>Relationship to the parties:.....</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WITNESS # 3</b></p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Address: .....</p> <p>City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....</p> <p>Relationship to the parties:.....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WITNESS # 4</b></p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Address: .....</p> <p>City: ..... State: ..... Zip: .....</p> <p>Relationship to the parties:.....</p>

### INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE GROUNDS FOR NULLITY

1. Has the respondent entered another marriage?\_\_\_\_\_ If so, give the name of the new spouse, date, and place of the marriage.
  
2. (The priest should explain the nature of an oath and then ask): Do you swear to tell the truth to the following questions?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How long did you go with the respondent before the marriage? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) How long were you engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Were there any serious differences or problems during the period of courtship? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please explain.
  
4. What was the main reason that you and the respondent had for getting married?
  - a) Did both of you marry of your own free will? \_\_\_\_\_If not, please explain.
  
  - b) Was any force used, such as threats or physical force? \_\_\_\_\_If yes, please explain.

c) If there was a premarital pregnancy, did this fact have any serious influence on your decision or the Respondent's decision to marry? Please explain.

5. Were you and the respondent related in any way? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please explain.
6. Were you or the respondent ever in a religious order (priest, sister, brother)? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please explain.
7. Prior to and at the end of the time of the marriage to the respondent, did each of you want to have a child at least some time during the marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please explain.
8. Within the marriage, did you and the respondent ever have sexual intercourse without the use of contraceptives? \_\_\_\_\_ If contraceptives were always used, give the reasons why.
9. Is there any indication that either you or the respondent simply "went through the motions" of getting married, that is, without ever really intending to live up to the expectations of marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please explain.
10. At the time of the marriage, did each of you intend to enter a permanent union? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please explain.
- a) Prior to the marriage, did either you or the respondent make any statements or agreements about a possible divorce? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please explain.
11. At the time of the marriage, did each of you intend to be faithful to the other for life? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please explain.
12. Is there any indication that either you or the respondent was psychologically or emotionally incapable of carrying out the responsibilities of marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please explain.

- a) If psychiatric treatment and/or hospitalization occurred, give details and dates.
- b) Was there any evidence of these psychological or emotional problems before the marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ Please explain.
13. What were the main problems of the marriage? When did these problems begin?
14. What caused the final breakup of the marriage?
15. A declaration of nullity in the Catholic Church is a judgement that some essential quality of a true marriage relationship was missing from the beginning, and that consequently, it was not a valid marriage. Do you think your marriage to the respondent was a valid marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ If no, why not?
16. Before the breakup, did either of you consult a priest or marriage counselor? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, give names and addresses of such professional people.
17. Your former spouse must be contacted and given the opportunity to participate in this case. What do you think the reaction of your former spouse will be?
18. Give the names and complete address of YOUR parents, including mother's maiden name.
19. Give the names and complete address of the RESPONDENT'S parents, including mother's maiden name.

20. In what parish are you, if Catholic, and/or your present spouse or fiancé(e) registered as members?

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\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_

Place

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Priest (Optional)

**PRIEST'S EVALUATION AND REMARKS (Optional):**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am personally acquainted with the Petitioner and testify to his/her credibility.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not that well acquainted with the Petitioner.

Please add any further comments about this marriage, the Petitioner and this testimony.