**REQUEST FOR A Nihil Obstat**
**For a Lack of Canonical Form**

**DIOCESE OF MADISON-Tribunal · 702 S. High Point Road, Suite 225 · Madison, WI 53719-4926 · 608-821-3060 · tribunal@madisondiocese.org**

**STOP! DO NOT USE THIS FORM UNLESS AT LEAST ONE PARTY WAS CATHOLIC AT THE TIME OF THE MARRIAGE.**

This form must be filled out completely (please print or type), including information regarding the Respondent. Due to the technical and confusing nature of the questions regarding canonical form, please complete this form with the assistance of a priest or deacon.

### PETITIONER (YOU)

- **Current name:**
- **Maiden name (if applicable):**
- **Present address:**
- **City:**
- **State:**
- **Zip:**
- **Telephone:**
- **E-mail:**
- **Date of birth:**
- **City:**
- **Baptized? Yes No**
- **If so, date:**
- **Church of baptism:**
- **City:**
- **State:**
- **Zip:**
- **Age at time of marriage:**
- **Your religion at time of marriage:**
- **Your religion currently:**

### RESPONDENT (OTHER PARTY)

- **Current name:**
- **Maiden name (if applicable):**
- **Present address:**
- **City:**
- **State:**
- **Zip:**
- **Telephone:**
- **E-mail:**
- **Date of birth:**
- **City:**
- **Baptized? Yes No**
- **If so, date:**
- **Church of baptism:**
- **City:**
- **State:**
- **Zip:**
- **Age at time of marriage:**
- **His/her religion at time of marriage:**
- **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:**
  - **City:**
  - **State:**
  - **Zip:**
- **Minister or officiant of marriage:**
- **Denomination (if applicable):**
- **Date of separation:**
- **Date of divorce:**
- **County, state of divorce:**

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Revised April 2017
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: .................................................

 QUESTIONS REGARDING CANONICAL FORM

1. Was a dispensation from canonical form granted for this marriage? ................................................. □ Yes □ No

2. Were there any extraordinary circumstances (e.g., danger of death, unavailability of minister, etc.) which prevented exchanging consent according to canonical form, that is, in the presence of a priest/deacon and two witnesses? ............. □ Yes □ No

If so, please give details concerning the circumstances: ........................................................................
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3. Was this marriage ever validated (blessed) by giving consent in the presence of a priest/deacon and 2 witnesses? ...... □ Yes □ No

4. Was a sanatio in radice obtained for this marriage? .............................................................................. □ Yes □ No

5. (For marriages that took place between November 27, 1983, and April 9, 2010) Did the Catholic party ever leave the Catholic Church by a formal act (e.g., join another church or ecclesial community, renounce their Catholic affiliation, etc.)? ................................................................. □ Yes □ No

If so, please give details concerning this act: ...........................................................................................
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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, 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.
INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER MARRIAGES

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

Please indicate below 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 dead, 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 dead, give date of death: ............
Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church? ...... ☐ If civil divorce, give date of divorce: ............

For each marriage, please enclose, if applicable, certified civil marriage license, death certificate, divorce decree, and Catholic declaration of nullity.

Necessary Documents:
1. A recently issued baptismal certificate (within the last 6 months) for Catholic parties
2. A certified civil marriage license
3. A complete civil divorce decree (if applicable)

*The ORIGINAL documents, which must be submitted with this request, will be returned to the priest or deacon submitting them so that they may be included with the marriage file if the party is preparing for marriage.

Fees for the Process:
There are many expenses involved in the operation of an ecclesiastical tribunal (e.g., salaries, postage, supplies, etc.). As a matter of justice, many tribunals pass on some portion of those expenses to the parties who request their services. If the expenses are not borne by the parties, they are borne by the Church, which ultimately means by the other people in the pews. In the Diocese of Madison, the operating expenses of the tribunal are covered by contributions made from our parishes, and therefore there is no fee for the parties in the cause.

Please sign and date the statement below:
I understand that the nihil obstat cannot be granted unless the information provided clearly demonstrates a lack of canonical form.

I swear before God and my conscience that all the information given in this petition is true insofar as I know.

......................................................... Date .........................................................
Signature of Petitioner

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Signature of Priest Sponsor / Pastor

Parish City

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