



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

Metropolitan Tribunal

HOW TO DETERMINE A PRIOR BOND (*LIGAMEN*) CASE

Can. 1085.1°: A person bound by the bond of a prior marriage, even if it was not consummated, invalidly attempts marriage.

Can. 1085.2°: Even if the prior marriage is invalid or dissolved for any reason, it is not on that account permitted to contract another before the nullity or dissolution of the prior marriages is established legitimately and certainly.

1. YES NO Was the Respondent's marriage to the Petitioner the Respondent's first marriage?
2. YES NO If the Respondent had been previously married, was the Respondent's previous marriage ever declared invalid by a tribunal of the Catholic Church or dissolved by the death of the Respondent's former spouse, or by the Diocesan Bishop (Pauline Privilege), or by the Apostolic See (Petrine Privilege) before the Petitioner and the Respondent married?
3. YES NO Was the Respondent's former spouse in the Respondent's previous marriage deceased at the time of the Respondent's marriage to the Petitioner?

If each of the answers to all the above questions is "NO", then you may have a prior bond case.

The documents required for the marriage to be declared invalid are:

- A copy of the marriage certificate of the Respondent's previous marriage, for which a declaration of nullity based on prior bond is being sought.
- A copy of the divorce decree of the previous marriage, for which a declaration of nullity based on prior bond is being sought.
- A copy of the marriage certificate of the marriage to be declared invalid, that is, the marriage certificate of the petitioner and the respondent.
- A copy of divorce decree of the marriage to be declared invalid, that is, the divorce decree of the petitioner and the respondent.

Documents

- **Complete the Prior Bond Petition form**

- **Documents for the marriage to be declared invalid**
 - Certified copy of certificate of marriage to be declared invalid.
 - Certified copy of Divorce Decree for the marriage to be declared invalid.

- **Documents for the Prior Marriage of the Petitioner**
 - Certified copy of the certificate of the Petitioner's Previous marriage.
 - Certified copy of the Decree of Divorce of the Previous marriage.

- **Documents for the Prior Marriage of the Respondent**
 - Certified copy of the certificate of the Respondent's Previous marriage.
 - Certified copy of the Decree of Divorce of the Previous marriage.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Tribunal at 504-861-6291.

Rev. 4/2/16.