



TOOLS/WEBSITES TO ASSIST YOU IN FINDING PERSONS

**Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Austin
6225 Hwy 290 East, Austin, Texas 78723-1024**

FINDING A RESPONDENT (Your Former Spouse)

It is a strict requirement of Church Law (Canon Law) that the Respondent (your former spouse) be notified that this process is occurring. Failure to contact your former spouse can result in the entire process being declared invalid. Using today's technology, namely the Internet, it is not difficult to find someone. If all means to locate your former spouse have been truly exhausted, the Tribunal can attempt to contact your former spouse through a family member, such as a parent or sibling. However, contacting your former spouse through a relative or through a c/o (care of) address could delay the process since extra special attention must be given to ensure that your former spouse has indeed received the notice. After exhausting the means provided to you, if you need TRIBUNAL ASSISTANCE, please refer to the following. It is not recommended that you use a private detective or a paid locating service.

EACH QUESTION MUST BE ANSWERED COMPLETELY. USE THE INTERNET TOOLS TO ASSIST YOU.

1. Is there anything about the behavior or lifestyle of your former spouse that would make you think that your former spouse with whom you are still in contact might be deceased? Please describe any and all efforts of your search.
2. Are there any mutual friends, former in-laws; or other relatives of your former spouse with whom you are in contact? If yes, contact each one of them to see if they know where your former spouse is. Please list that you contacted, giving this person's name, address, telephone and the relationship to your former spouse, and their response.
3. List the places that your former spouse has lived in chronological order, starting with the place of birth to the last known address of the former spouse. Be as detailed as you can, listing street addresses, city, state, etc.
4. Please provide the full names of both parents of your former spouse, including the mother's maiden and current name. Then list the places that the parents of your former spouse have lived in chronological order, starting with their place of birth to their last known address. Be as detailed as you can, listing street addresses, city, state, etc. Please describe any and all efforts you made to contact them.
5. List the names of all siblings and their spouse's full names, along with the last known address of each sibling and their spouse. Give the approximate ages or approximate date of birth of the siblings. Please describe any and all efforts you made to contact any of them.
6. If there were children born to the marriage and those children are grown, please give their current name, along with the full name of their spouse, including their last known address and telephone number. Please describe any and all efforts you made to contact any of them.

7. List the names of schools attended by your former spouse, especially high school and college. Try contacting the schools for your former spouse's address and explain your results.
8. Was your former spouse ever in the Military Service? If so, what branch of the Military and what years were they in the Military?
9. List your former spouse's last known places of employment? Please try contacting the places of employment for any possible leads to the location of your former spouse and explain your results.
10. Was your former spouse married before marrying you? Is it possible to contact this former spouse or any children born of this marriage to see if they know how to find your former spouse? If this is possible, please do so and explain who you contacted and your results.
11. Has your former spouse remarried after your divorce from him/her? If so, please give the full names of any other spouses that they might have had and approximately when and where these marriages might have taken place.
12. What other steps have you taken to find your former spouse?

DEATH RECORDS

Death Records

Site: <http://www.ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com> fee charged after limited search by credit card.

You can also write the Department of Vital Records in the State where your former spouse was last known to reside to see if there is a possible death certificate. Not available in all states.

Site: <http://www.vitalrec.com> can be used as a tool to find the location and telephone of the State's Vital Statistics office. It is much cheaper if you then contact the State's Vital Statistics office yourself rather than use the paid service that is website charges.

TELEPHONE BOOK/WHITE PAGES

Try the telephone book for all the known places your former spouse has lived. If it is in another city or state, try to contact someone in that particular city/state who would be willing to look up or copy the listings for you. In this way, the person can contact the listings in search of the former spouse or a family member.

Try directory assistance. When checking through directory assistance, always ask the operator upfront for an address and then the telephone number of the person you are trying to find. If checking in a particular city shows no result, ask the operator to check the surrounding area or the entire area code. List the directory assistance cities contacted and the result. Please state the result of any attempts by you to make contact by telephone. You may also check US Search and many URLs appear.

The Internet has numerous white pages sites. They are not all alike. For a good search, try 8-10 different sites with different combinations of a person's name. If a person is married, the woman might have the telephone listed in her name. Six popular Internet white pages for easy access. <http://www.theultimates.com/white>

If you only have a telephone number for a person, try a reverse look-up site, which will give you a possible address. If you have a last known address, you can use this site to see who now lives at the address and possibly that person can give you a lead as to where to find your former spouse.

Check <http://www.infospace.com> or <http://www.anywho.com> or <http://zabasearch.com> or <http://peoplefinder.com> or <http://whitepages.com>

PROPERTY RECORDS

If a person owns property, it is possible to find them through the appraisal records of the county in which the property is owned or the person lives. The following are three Internet sites that you can use to find a property owner in Texas.

<http://www.home.austin.rr.com/graf/> or <http://www.txcountydata.com> or <http://www.nctcog.dst.tx.us/almanac/appr.asp> or <http://www.traviscad.org/>

It is also possible to find a property owner in other states. In order to determine if this is possible, you would have to search for that information through the State's web site by inserting the initials of any U.S. State to obtain the home page. From there check for sites generally called property records, State Assessor, or appraisal records. See http://www.state._____.us. Not available in all states.

ALUMNI LISTS

Contact the high school and/or college that your former spouse attended. Some keep a list or can tell you how to get in touch with a former student. Some schools have websites. A search engine such as <http://www.infoseek.com> can assist you. At <http://www.lycos.com> you can click on "Who Where?" for white pages to locate college alumni lists. Limited, but still good.

TRIBUNAL ASSISTANCE

The Tribunal can assist a person in finding someone. Our main source of information comes from the State Department of Motor Vehicles, public documents, and a locating service.

Any information or address that is obtained from these sources is protected by the federal Driver's Privacy Act (DPPA) and other federal protective and stalking laws. The information or address that is obtained can only be used for the service of process. We are required by law to hold this information confidential and it cannot be released to anyone.

The Tribunal will assess an additional research fee on an individual basis depending on the amount of research the Tribunal has to do. See "PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE" form. The \$100 fee needs to be paid in advance if you opt for the Tribunal to do the research.

1. Current name of former spouse.
2. Date of birth of former spouse.
3. Social security number of former spouse.
4. Driver's license number, including State, of former spouse. (If not known, give all States where the former spouse may have had a driver's license.)

This information can possibly be found on the marriage application, the marriage license, the original petition for divorce, the final divorce decree, and/or federal income tax return forms.