



Declaration of Freedom to Marry Due to Lack of Canonical Form

**Canonical & Tribunal Services
Diocese of Austin, Pastoral Center
6225 E US 290 HWY SVRD EB
Austin, TX 78723**

Parish of _____
Parish Name

In the city of _____
City

I, the undersigned pastor, certify that _____ is free to
First - Maiden - Last

marry, notwithstanding the marriage with _____,
First - Maiden - Last

on _____ in the presence of a rabbi civil official minister.
Date

The marriage in question, I find, is INVALID by reason of Lack of Canonical Form,
by which _____, a Catholic, was bound at the time.
First - Maiden - Last

Name of Pastor

Parish Seal

Signature of Pastor

Date Signed

Investigating a Lack of Canonical Form

This form is meant to assist a pastor in determining whether a Catholic is free to marry due to a lack of canonical form on a previous union. If you have any questions or doubts about this process, please contact the Tribunal.

Part One: The following questions must ALL receive a YES before a lack of form procedure can proceed:

1. Do you have a recent copy of the Catholic's baptismal certificate? Yes No
(If the answer is No, a recent copy, with a parish seal, must first be obtained from the church of baptism.)
2. Do you have a copy of the divorce decree? Yes No
3. Are any legal obligations and/or alimony and child support being met? Yes No
(If the answer is No the canonical form process cannot be used until these obligations are met: cf. Canon 1071 1,3)
4. Do you have a copy of the marriage license? Yes No
(You must have a copy of the license before proceeding.)
5. Does the license indicate the wedding was conducted by any one of the following: Yes No
 - a. A Protestant minister
 - b. A civil magistrate (e.g., Justice of the Peace)
 - c. A non-Christian official (e.g., rabbi)

Part Two: The following questions must ALL receive a NO for you to use the lack of canonical form process.

6. Does the license indicate the wedding was conducted by an Orthodox priest? Yes No
7. Does the license indicate the wedding was conducted by a Catholic priest/deacon? Yes No
8. Is there any indication on the baptismal certificate, any other documents, or from the Catholic party that a dispensation from canonical form had been granted? Yes No
9. Is there any indication under the "notations" section of the certificate that a *convalidation* or *sanatio* was performed in this marriage? Yes No
10. Was the marriage conducted in danger of death, or did it proceed without a priest or deacon simply because one would not have been available for at least a month? Yes No

* If all questions in Part One received a YES, and all questions in Part Two received a NO, the person is free to marry. *Please fill out the reverse side of this form and then **send a copy of both sides of this form to the Tribunal**.*

* If ANY question in Part Two received a YES, the person is not free to marry: **contact the Tribunal!**