



## HOW TO DETERMINE A LACK OF FORM CASE

A lack of form case is one in which a Catholic was married civilly or was married in a non-Catholic ceremony without dispensation from the Archbishop or Bishop of the Diocese and the Catholic party did not subsequently validated the marriage in the Church. A Catholic is required to observe the canonical form, that is, to marry before a properly delegated Catholic Bishop, priest, or deacon and two witnesses. When the canonical form has not been observed and the marriage was not later validated in the Church, the administrative process is used to declare such marriages invalid. The purpose of this questionnaire is to help you determine whether you have a lack of form case.

**YES**  **NO** Were both parties **not** Catholic at the time of the wedding?

**YES**  **NO** Was this marriage celebrated before a properly delegated Catholic priest or deacon?

**YES**  **NO** Was a dispensation from observing canonical form granted for this marriage?

**YES**  **NO** Was this marriage later validated or recognized by the Catholic Church?

If the answers to all the questions are **NO**, you may have a lack of form case. Kindly, download the **PETITION FOR A DECLARATION OF FREEDOM TO MARRY BECAUSE OF LACK OF CANONICAL FORM ON THE ATTEMPTED MARRIAGE**. Complete the Petition and send it to the Tribunal with the following documents, namely:

- A Copy of the Baptism Certificate/Profession of Faith for Catholic party or parties (issued within last 6 months).
- A Copy of the Marriage Certificate.
- A Copy of the Divorce Decree.

If any question was answered **YES**, you have a case other than lack of form. Kindly call the Tribunal at 504-861-6291 for assistance.