Petitioner Initial Questions without validation

CONCERNING YOURSELF

ANSWER EACH QUESTION AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE ON 8½ x 11 PAPER (PREFERABLY TYPED). SIMPLE “YES” OR “NO” ANSWERS ARE NOT HELPFUL.

Regarding your family’s relationship:

1. What nationality or nationalities were your parents? When you were growing up, what was your family’s socio-economic level (poor, wealthy, middle-class, etc.)?

2. How many brothers or sisters, if any, did you have and what were their differences in age from yourself? How did you get along with them?

3. How would you describe your mother? What was her personality like? How would you describe your father? What was his personality like?

4. How did your mother and father get along when you were growing up? How did you get along with them?

5. How was affection displayed in your family? How was anger expressed?

6. What was the nature of discipline in the family? What was rewarded? How? What was punished? How?

7. Are your parents alive now? If not, how old were you when they died? Was there anything unusual about their death(s) or anything that was especially traumatic for you? Elaborate.

Regarding yourself:

8. How did you do academically in school? What schools did you attend? How far did you go in school? Describe your relationships with your teachers and fellow students. Were you involved in any extra-curricular activities? Did you have any disciplinary problems?

9. How would you describe your childhood years? Were there any significant problems or accomplishments that stand out in your mind? Did you have any health problems as a child? Any emotional or adjustment problems that bothered you? Are there any instances of divorce in your family? If so, when? How did this affect you?

10. What jobs have you had since you finished school? Include time frames and reasons for job change.

11. Describe your religious background and practices before you met your former spouse.

12. Describe your personality before you met your former spouse. What kinds of things bring out a strong emotional response in you? What kinds of situations, if any, would make you feel that your emotions were beyond control? Can you give examples?

13. Have you ever become physically aggressive or violent towards someone? What kind of situation would bring forth that response in you?
Concerning Yourself (cont’d.)

14. Are there any recurring fears that bother you? Are you a nervous or an anxious person? Describe situations in which you are nervous or tense.

15. Have you ever seriously contemplated, threatened or attempted suicide? Elaborate.

16. How is your general health? Do you have any medical problems? If so, when did they begin? Are you under regular doctor’s care? For what problems? Have you had any severe weight problems (overweight or loss of appetite)? Have you had any great difficulty in sleeping?

17. Have you ever used drugs, prescription drugs, on a regular basis? What type of drugs were they? What effect did they have on you? Have you used marijuana, LSD, mescaline or other hallucinogenic drugs? If so, when and describe the nature of use.

18. Describe your past and current use of alcohol. What effect, if any, has drinking had on your life? Have you ever had a serious problem with drinking? If so, when and explain.

19. What is your dating history? What are your general attitudes towards sex? Describe your own sexual tendencies and activity.

20. Have you ever been in the military service? If so, what type of discharge and what kind of record did you have? Have you ever been arrested, received many traffic tickets other than parking violations? Describe the circumstances.

21. What is your present opinion of your own maturity and stability prior to your marriage? Explain.

22. Have you ever had any counseling? If so, when and for how long? Whom did you see? Are you presently in counseling? What was the cause?

23. Have you ever been hospitalized or treated for a nervous breakdown or emotional disorder? If so, elaborate.

24. Did you cohabit with any of your dating partners prior to your former spouse? If so, when? How/why did that relationship end? How did this impact your relationship with your former spouse?

25. Were you previously married? If so, describe that marital relationship, and how/why it ended. How did this impact your relationship with your former spouse?

26. Had you previously conceived any children with another party? If so, when and explain the circumstances and the child care arrangements. Explain how this impacted your relationship.

27. Did you have a healthy or low self-esteem at the time of consent? Why or why not?
CONCERNING YOUR FORMER SPOUSE

ANSWER EACH QUESTION AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE ON 8½ x 11 PAPER (PREFERABLY TYPED). SIMPLE “YES” OR “NO” ANSWERS ARE NOT HELPFUL.

Regarding your former spouse’s family relationship:

1. What nationality or nationalities were the parents of your former spouse? When your former spouse was growing up, what was his/her family’s socio-economic level (poor, wealthy, middle-class, etc.)?

2. How many brothers or sisters, if any, did your former spouse have and what were their differences in age? How did he/she get along with them?

3. How would you describe your former spouse’s mother? What was her personality like? How would you describe your former spouse’s father? What was his personality like?

4. How did his/her mother and father get along when he/she was growing up? How did he/she get along with them?

5. How was affection displayed in your former spouse’s family? How was anger expressed?

6. What was the nature of discipline in the family? What was rewarded? How? What was punished? How?

7. Are your former spouse’s parents alive now? If not, how old was he/she when they died? Was there anything unusual about their death(s) or anything that was especially traumatic for him/her? Elaborate.

Regarding your former spouse:

8. How did your former spouse do academically in school? What schools did he/she attend? How far did he/she go in school? Describe his/her relationships with teachers and fellow students. Was he/she involved in any extra-curricular activities? Did he/she have any disciplinary problems?

9. How would your former spouse describe his/her childhood years? Were there any significant problems or accomplishments? Did he/she have any health problems as a child? Any emotional or adjustment problems? Are there any instances of divorce in his/her family?

10. What jobs have your former spouse had since he/she finished school? Include time frames and reasons for job change.

11. Describe your former spouse’s religious background and practices before he/she met you.

12. Describe your former spouse’s personality when you met. What kinds of things bring out a strong emotional response in him/her? What kinds of situations, if any, would cause your former spouse to feel that his/her emotions were beyond control? Can you give examples?

13. Has your former spouse ever become physically aggressive or violent towards someone? What kind of situation would bring forth that response in him/her?
Concerning Your Former Spouse (cont’d.)

14. Are there any recurring fears that bothered your former spouse? Is he/she a nervous or an anxious person? Describe situations in which he/she was nervous or tense.

15. Has your former spouse ever seriously contemplated, threatened or attempted suicide? Elaborate.

16. How is your former spouse’s general health? Does he/she have any medical problems? If so, when did they begin? Is he/she under regular doctor’s care? For what problems? Has he/she had any severe weight problems (overweight or loss of appetite)? Has he/she had any great difficulty in sleeping?

17. Has your former spouse ever used drugs, prescription drugs, on a regular basis? What type of drugs were they? What effect did they have on his/her? Has he/she used marijuana, LSD, mescaline or other hallucinogenic drugs? If so, when and describe the nature of use.

18. Describe your former spouse’s past and current use of alcohol. What effect, if any, has drinking had on his/her life? Has he/she ever had a serious problem with drinking? If so, when and explain.

19. What is your former spouse’s dating history? What are his/her general attitudes towards sex? Describe his/her sexual tendencies and activity.

20. Has he/she ever been in the military service? If so, what type of discharge and what kind of record did he/she have? Has he/she ever been arrested, received many traffic tickets other than parking violations? Describe the circumstances.

21. What is your opinion of your former spouse’s maturity and stability prior to the marriage? Explain.

22. Has your former spouse ever had any counseling? If so, when and for how long? With whom? Is he/she presently in counseling? What was the cause?

23. Has your former spouse ever been hospitalized or treated for a nervous breakdown or emotional disorder? If so, elaborate.

24. Did your former spouse cohabit with any of his/her former dating partners? If so, when? How/why did that relationship end? How did this impact your relationship with your former spouse?

25. Was your former spouse previously married? If so, describe that marital relationship, and how/why it ended. How did this impact your relationship with your former spouse?

26. Had your former spouse previously conceived any children with another party? If so, when and explain the circumstances and the child care arrangements. Explain how this impacted your relationship.

27. Did your former spouse have a healthy or low self-esteem at the time of consent? Why or why not?
CONCERNING YOUR MARRIAGE

ANSWER EACH QUESTION AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE ON 8½ x 11 PAPER (PREFERABLY TYPED).
SIMPLE “YES” OR “NO” ANSWERS ARE NOT HELPFUL.

Regarding the dating period:

1. When did you meet your former spouse? Describe the circumstances under which you met. How did your relationship develop? How did you feel about each other?

2. How did you get along? How did you treat each other?

3. What did your parents, siblings and friends think about this relationship?

4. Were there any characteristics about your former spouse that struck you as unusual or problematic but you disregarded? If so, explain.

5. Did you ever break off your relationship? If so, when? When and how did you reconcile?

6. Were you able to effectively communicate with one another? When you had disagreements, how were they handled?

7. Did you engage in premarital sex? If so, how did it affect your relationship? If not, how did that affect your relationship?

8. Did you and your former spouse live together prior to marriage? If so, when and why?

9. Describe any difficulties that arose while you were dating (for example, with employment, each other’s families or friends, finances, drug and/or alcohol abuse, verbal and/or physical abuse, etc.).

Regarding the engagement period:

10. Describe the decision to marry. When and why did you each decide to marry? Was either of you more anxious to marry than the other? If yes, who was more anxious and why?

11. What did you discuss of your expectations, hopes, dreams of marriage and of one another? Explain.


13. During the engagement, were there any problems? If yes, explain.

14. Did either of you break off your engagement at any time? If so, explain the reason for the break-up and the length of time it lasted. How and why did you reconcile? How did the other person feel about resuming the engagement?

15. Before or during the wedding, did either of you have any misgivings about the future success of this marriage? Explain.
Concerning Your Marriage (Cont’d)

Regarding the wedding:

16. Were there any unusual circumstances surrounding the wedding? If so, explain.

17. At the time you married, what did you each intend regarding fidelity? Did either of you engage in any extra-marital relations? Explain.

18. At the time you married, what did you each intend regarding having children? If you chose not to have children, why not?

19. At the time you married, did you both intend to enter a permanent union or was divorce considered a possibility? If either party did not intend a permanent union, explain why.

Regarding your married life together:

20. Did you go on a honeymoon? How was it? Explain.

21. How long were you happy? When and why did problems arise? What were they? How did you solve them? If you did not solve them, why were you not able to solve them?

22. Was there anything of importance that you learned about your former spouse after you married that had been kept from you or that you did not know? Was there anything of importance that your former spouse learned about you after you married that had been kept from him/her? Explain.

23. Describe any difficulties encountered during the marriage. (For example, employment, sexual relations, religious differences, finances, drugs and/or alcohol, verbal and/or physical abuse, in-laws, problems with friends, participation in sports or other activities, frequent absences from the family home, employment, work hours, etc.) When did these difficulties begin? How were these difficulties resolved?

24. Did you and/or your former spouse experience any difficulties in emotional and/or physical health? Were there any hospitalizations? Was either of you taking any medications? Explain.

25. Were you faithful to each other during the marriage? If not, give details about any infidelities, for example, when they began, how long they continued, etc.

26. What was your plan for having or not having children? Were you both in agreement?

27. Did you have children? If so, when? If not, why not? Explain.

28. If you did not have children, did either of you take means to prevent their conception? If so, how? Did you agree? Explain.

29. If children were conceived or adopted, how were parental responsibilities fulfilled by both of you during the marriage? Explain.

30. Did either of you have difficulties coping with certain responsibilities? If so, explain.
Concerning Your Marriage (Cont’d)

31. How did each of you fulfill your basic responsibilities to each other? Were you affectionate toward one another? Were you able to grow together? Explain.

Regarding the separation and divorce:

32. Give dates and details of any and all separations, including the final separation. When and why did the separation(s) occur? How long did the separation(s) last? Why did you or did you not reconcile?

33. Why did the relationship last as long as it did?

34. What has happened since the divorce? If there were children, who got custody of them?

35. Has either of you remarried? If you have not remarried, are you planning to remarry? Was your present spouse or fiancé/fiancée ever married before? Explain.

36. How have things gone for each of you since the divorce? Explain.