The Process of Presenting a Declaration of Nullity

What is a Declaration of Nullity?
A Catholic Church court known as a Tribunal, declares that a marriage thought to be valid according to Church law actually lacked at least one of the essential elements required for a binding union, or a valid marriage. The Tribunal process seeks to determine if at least one of the essential elements was missing at the moment of consent, that is, the time of the wedding.

For a marriage between a man and a woman to be valid, there is required that:
1. The spouses are free to marry.
2. They are capable of giving their consent to marry.
3. They freely exchange their consent.
4. In consenting to marry, they had the intention to marry for life, to be faithful to one another and to be open to children.
5. They intend to the good of each other.

What does the Tribunal process involve?
There are several steps involved:
1. The person asking the Tribunal to investigate the validity of their marriage, the petitioner or co-petitioners, ask their parish priest, deacon, or trained lay person who are known as advocates, to assist them in preparation of a petition to be submitted to the Tribunal.
2. The petitioner assisted by their advocate prepares and submits written testimony about the marriage in question:
   a. List two to four witnesses that are willing to answer questions in regard to the spouses and the events leading up to the wedding. Testimony from these witnesses, former spouse and parents, if living, will be obtained by the Tribunal through mail.
   b. A copy of the marriage certificate
   c. A copy of the divorce decree
   d. A copy of Catholic baptism of either petitioner or respondent
3. If the petition is not co-signed by both spouses, the tribunal will contact the former spouse, the respondent, so it is necessary that a current address for the former spouse be submitted.
   a. The respondent has a right to be involved, but if the former spouse chooses not to become involved, the case can still move forward.
4. Once all required documentation has been received by the Tribunal, the Tribunal will determine the process that is to be followed:
   a. Regardless of the selected process, both the petitioner and the respondent will be able to read the testimony submitted, except for testimony protected by civil law, and both will have the opportunity to submit additional testimony.
5. If the Tribunal decides in favor of the nullity of the marriage, the parties are then free to marry in the Catholic Church, unless an appeal of the decision is lodged, or the decision includes a prohibition against one or both of the parties marrying until certain issues have been resolved (refer to Code of Canon Law 1682.1).

How long does the process take?
The length of time will depend upon the type of process that is followed, e.g., the ordinary judicial process, the process before the Bishop or “Briefer Process”, a documentary process, or a process before a Roman court. Your advocate, priest, or deacon will be able to give you a more exact estimate of time based upon your case and can advise you of what type of process might be possible to submit.

Why does the Catholic Church require an intended spouse, who is divorced but not Catholic, to obtain a declaration of nullity before marrying in the Catholic Church?
The Catholic Church respects and holds all marriages valid until proven otherwise. The Church requires a declaration of nullity in order to establish that an essential element was missing in that previous union that prevented it from being a valid marriage, and thus freeing the intended spouse to marry in the Catholic Church.

When may we set a date for our wedding after submitting our petition for a declaration of nullity?
You should not set a date until the Tribunal’s decision has been finalized. For the reason that the petition may not be granted, and if eventually it is to be granted, there may be unexpected delays in the process, e.g., an appeal by the former spouse to the tribunal’s decision.

The following self-examination questions will be helpful to review before you begin to answer the questionnaire. These questions are between you and God and are designed for your own benefit and do not need to be submitted to the Tribunal.

1. What did your ex-spouse most criticize in you, or what in you most upset him/her? With hindsight, do you perhaps now see that your former spouse was justified in his/her reactions?
2. Did you perhaps react unwisely or inappropriately to things in your ex-spouse’s personality or conduct that bothered you? What were these inappropriate reactions on your part?
3. How aware were you of your former spouse’s feelings and needs? Were you usually caring and supportive? In what ways did you show this?
4. Did you really keep your spouse in first place in your life? If not, who or what took the first place: Your mother or father? Your children? Your work? Other friends? Recreation without your spouse being along? How soon after your wedding did this start? Was this your real intention or did you just slip into it gradually or perhaps without real awareness of what was happening?
5. Did you usually or always insist on having your own way with your former spouse? Were you always right, and your spouse always wrong?
6. When you entered marriage, what was your understanding of marriage? Comparing your understanding and your intentions with your real living in your marriage, how well or how poorly did you do? Did you ever consciously intend to enter a partnership between equals for a deeply interpersonal and total caring and sharing of life and love – such as Christian marriage is supposed to be?
PETITION QUESTIONNAIRE
(Please answer on a separate sheet of paper and keep a copy of your answers)

Prior Marriages
1. Prior to this marriage, were either you or your former spouse married before?
2. If so, please give a brief description of the circumstances surrounding that marriage/those marriages.

Courtship
1. Describe the circumstances under which you met your former spouse.
2. When did you start dating your former spouse exclusively?
3. Had you dated previously to dating your former spouse? Any long term or serious relationships?
4. What was the nature and frequency of your dates: (double dates, group activities, various private activities; several times a week, weekly, monthly)?
5. If you had conversation, what serious subjects did you discuss?
6. Were there subjects that you avoided talking about? Why?
7. If there were arguments, how serious and how frequent were they?
8. Were there breaks in the relationship, and if so what were the causes; how long (argument, work, military service)?
9. Were alcohol, drugs, sex, gambling, or any other addictions a factor in your courtship? Explain.
10. Were there any character or personality traits in your former spouse you noticed that you were uncomfortable with or that you had to ignore?
11. What did your family and friends think of your former spouse and your relationship with him/her?
12. How did you treat each other? How did it move from like to love?
13. Did either of you offer physical violence to the other on any occasion? Explain.
14. Did you practice your faith during courtship? Did your former spouse?
15. At what point did discussion about potential marriage begin?
16. What was your understanding of rights and responsibilities of spouses?
17. How long was it from dating to engagement?

Engagement:
1. How long had you been dating before becoming engaged?
2. Describe how you became engaged. Was there a proposal; growing mutual expectation, sudden realization?
3. How old were each of you at the time of the engagement?
4. What were the reactions of parents and friends at the announcement of engagement?
5. Did anyone try to convince either of you that you should marry?
6. Did anyone try to convince either of you that you should not marry?
7. How long did you expect or plan to be engaged before the wedding?
8. Was there anything that caused you two to be separated during the engagement (school, work, military)? In other words, did you see each other regularly?
9. Did either of you break off the engagement at any time? Describe the situation that caused the break.
10. Were each of you faithful to the other during the engagement?
11. Did any uncomfortable character or personality traits continue or worsen during the engagement? Did any new ones appear?
12. Was there sexual intimacy? Was pregnancy a cause of the wedding?
13. Describe the pre-marital instructions you received from a pastor or other source.
14. Describe your understanding of the nature of marriage after this instruction. Was this a difference from what you thought before?
15. Were there discussions about children and openness to them? Did you two have any plan regarding your family?
16. What were you and your spouse’s opinion on divorce as a solution for resolving disagreements?
17. Did you discuss how you and spouse would support yourselves when married? What were your plans?
18. At any time up to the wedding, did either of you have misgivings about the future success of this marriage?
19. Did you feel that both you and your spouse were ready in all important respects for the responsibilities of marriage?
20. Did anything occur that caused a disruption in the expected timing of the wedding (see question 7 above)?

Marriage:
1. Did the wedding go as expected? Any significant issues?
2. Did the honeymoon go as expected? Any significant issues?
3. Please describe the beginnings of married life, focusing on the first few months.
4. Did you learn anything about your spouse that would have caused the wedding not to have happened? Was this a concealment by your spouse?
5. Did you reveal, or did your spouse learn, something about you that you withheld? Why did you withhold it?
6. Were there any sexual problems in the beginning or later on in the marriage? Explain.
7. Were there any responsibilities or issues that either of you found extremely difficult to cope with? Explain.
8. How did the uncomfortable character, personality traits, and issues that existed before the wedding resolve themselves?
9. At any time, did either of you want to have a child and the other refuse? If there were children, how many? Did both spouses cooperate in their care?
10. Was birth control used throughout the marriage?
11. Were you faithful to your spouse throughout the marriage?
12. Was your spouse faithful to you throughout the marriage?
13. What were the circumstances that led to the breakdown of the marriage?
14. In a brief statement, indicate your definition of invalidity and why you think your marriage is invalid.

**Concerning Yourself**

*Instruction:* The purpose of this section is for the tribunal to have a good understanding of your background before you met the respondent. The questions are meant as guides to help you write an accurate story. If there is another important issue not addressed in these questions, please include it.

**Regarding Your Family**

1. What was your family's socio-economic level and ethnic group(s); were there any difficulties associated with these factors?

2. Describe your family relationships, between your parents, you and your parents and you and your brothers or sisters (please list number of each). Please describe how love, and emotions were expressed.

3. What was the nature of discipline in your family (strict or lax, etc). Was there a strong or weak sense of morals? Was religion practiced in your family? Describe please.

4. Were there any traumas or difficulties in your family that had serious negative effect? (For instance a family illness, death, alcohol or drug abuse, abusiveness, divorce, etc.)

**Regarding Yourself**

1. Describe as best you can and construct your feelings at the time of your childhood experiences: happy; pleasant; marred by parental arguing, divorce or step parent; moved around too much; hindered by your shyness or other personality trait; close-knit siblings; any great influence on you by a person or event.

2. What was your experience of school like? Did you enjoy it or find it difficult? How would you describe your social relationships growing up? Describe your friendships, your attitude toward friendships and dating.

3. Were there any health problems growing up or any presently? Were there any psychological issues? Do you have any recurring fears? Anxieties? Alcohol or substance abuse? Did you receive counseling?
4. Describe your dating history prior to meeting your former spouse. What was your attitude toward sex? Were you active sexually? Did you ever live with a dating partner?

5. Are there any other significant factors that affected you prior to meeting your ex-spouse (for instance, military service, legal troubles, etc.)

6. Describe yourself at the time you met your former spouse: coming off a bad relationship; disturbed by events at home; feeling of need to escape something; something inclining you toward or away from a new relationship.

7. What was your highest level of education?

Concerning Your Former Spouse

Instruction: The purpose of this section is for the tribunal to have a good understanding of the background of your ex-spouse before you met. The questions are meant as guides to help you write an accurate story. If you do not know much about your former spouse’s background, please state that. Lack of knowledge can be as important a fact as any. If there is another important issue not addressed in these questions, please include it.

Regarding Your Former Spouse’s Family

1. What was their family’s socio-economic level and ethnic group(s); were there any difficulties associated with these factors?

2. Describe their family relationships, between their parents, them and their parents and them and their brothers or sisters (please list number of each). Please describe how love, and emotions were expressed.

3. What was the nature of discipline in their family (strict or lax, etc.)? Was there a strong or weak sense of morals? Was religion practiced in their family? Describe please.

4. Were there any traumas or difficulties in their family that had serious negative effect? (For instance a family illness, death, alcohol or drug abuse, abusiveness, divorce, etc.)
Regarding Your Former Spouse

1. Describe as best you can and construct their childhood experiences: happy; pleasant; marred by parental arguing, divorce or step parent; moved around too much; hindered by your shyness or other personality trait; close-knit siblings; any great influence on them by a person or event.

2. What was their experience of school like? Did they enjoy it or find it difficult? How would you describe their social relationships growing up? Describe their friendships, and attitude toward friendships and dating.

3. Were there any health problems growing up or any presently? Were there any psychological issues? Do they have any recurring fears? Anxieties? Alcohol or substance abuse? Did they receive counseling?

4. Describe their dating history prior to your meeting. What was their attitude toward sex? Were they active sexually? Did they ever live with a dating partner?

5. Are there any other significant factors that affected them prior to meeting you (for instance, military service, legal troubles, etc.)

6. Describe your former spouse at the time you met them: coming off a bad relationship; disturbed by events at home; feeling of need to escape something; something inclining them toward or away from a new relationship.

7. What was your highest level of education?
**PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE NULLITY**

**PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION** (Please type or print in ink)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PETITIONER:</strong> (the party petitioning)</th>
<th>Full Name (maiden, if woman)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at time of wedding:</td>
<td>Religion at time of wedding:</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>RESPONDENT:</strong> (the former spouse)</th>
<th>Full Name (maiden, if woman)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at time of wedding:</td>
<td>Religion at time of wedding:</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>MARITAL INFORMATION:</strong></th>
<th>Date of Marriage:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officiant (Name and Title):</td>
<td>_________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of marriage (Church / Court House / Residence):</td>
<td>_________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Address:</td>
<td>_________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City / State / Zip / County:</td>
<td>_________________________</td>
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</table>

**IF EITHER Party is Catholic AND the Marriage was celebrated in the Catholic Church at some point in time, please answer the following questions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Celebration:</th>
<th>Name of Catholic Church:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>City / State / Zip:</td>
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</table>

**HISTORY OF RELATIONSHIP:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of initial meeting:</th>
<th>Date of first date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of marriage proposal and beginning of engagement:</td>
<td>____________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Times of separations during courtship and engagement:</td>
<td>____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names and Birth dates (or adoption dates) of children</td>
<td>____________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Date of decree of divorce granted: | |
|------------------------------------| |
| Place of decree of divorce: (County / State / Zip) | _________________________ |
IF THE PETITION IS JOINTLY FILED, THE PETITIONER AND RESPONDENT MUST READ AND SIGN BELOW:

I, the undersigned petitioner/respondent, party to this marriage, request a declaration of invalidity of this marriage. I contend that this marriage is invalid under the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church.

I swear to the truthfulness of all information I have given. I understand that all information submitted will become solely the property of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Tulsa and that these proceedings are for Church purposes only and have no civil effect whatsoever.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of petitioner / Date</th>
<th>Signature of respondent / Date</th>
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</table>

(PETITIONER (the party petitioning))

| Current Legal Name (Last, First, Middle): | ____________________________ |
| Maiden Name if woman: | ____________________________ |
| Present Religion: | ____________________________ |
| Current Address: (Street Address; City; State; Zip) | ____________________________ |
| Current Telephone: (home) | ____________________________ (work) | ____________________________ (cell) | ____________________________ |
| Current Email: | ____________________________ |
| Occupation: | ____________________________ |
| Place of Employment: | ____________________________ |
| Date of Birth: | ____________________________ |
| City & State of Birth: | ____________________________ |
| Father’s full name: | ____________________________ |
| Father’s religion: | ____________________________ |
| If deceased, date of death: | ____________________________ |
| Mother’s full maiden name: | ____________________________ |
| Mother’s religion: | ____________________________ |
| If deceased, date of death: | ____________________________ |
| Were you baptized? (yes/no) | ___ |
| If yes: (date; age; denomination) | ____________________________ |
| Church Name & Address: | ____________________________ |

IF NON-CATHOLIC BAPTISM, DID YOU MAKE A PROFESSION OF FAITH IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? (YES/NO)

If yes date: ____________________ Church Name & Address: ____________________________
List in chronological order all of the marriages that you, petitioner, have entered, including "common law".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF SPOUSE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DATE OF DIVORCE/DISSOLUTION OR DEATH OF SPOUSE</th>
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<td>3RD</td>
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</table>

ARE YOU INVOLVED IN RCIA? (Yes/No)________________
IS YOUR CURRENT/INTENDED SPOUSE INVOLVED IN RCIA? (Yes/No)________________
HAS YOUR CURRENT/INTENDED SPOUSE BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED? (Yes/No)________________
If yes has he/she petitioned for a declaration of invalidity? (Yes/No)________________
If yes, where? __________________________________________

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED:

(   ) Original petition including the questionnaire used and petitioner’s testimony (copy to be retained by the petitioner)
(   ) Current (dated within six months) Baptismal certificates for Catholic parties
(   ) Civil license and certificate of marriage from county were wedding occurred (if not Catholic)
(   ) Certificate of marriage (from parish where wedding occurred If Catholic)
(   ) Certified final divorce decree (judgment entry)
(   ) At a minimum of two witnesses with current addresses
(   ) Other (change of name, restraining orders, police reports, medical records, etc.)
(   ) Advocate’s Brief

RESPONSIDENT (the former spouse)

Current Legal Name (Last, First, Middle): _____________________________________________
Maiden Name if woman:________________________________________________________________
Present Religion:  _____________________________________________________________
Current Address:  (Street Address; City; State; Zip) ____________________________________________
Current Telephone: (home)_____________________(work)_____________________(cell)_____________________
Current Email: ________________________________________________________________
Occupation: __________________________________ Place of Employment: ____________________________________
Date of Birth: ___________________ City & State of Birth: ___________________ 
Father’s full name: ___________________ Father’s religion: ___________________
If deceased, date of death: ___________________
Mother’s full maiden name: ___________________ Mother’s religion: ___________________
If deceased, date of death: ___________________
Was respondent baptized? (yes/no) ______ If yes: (date; age; denomination) __________________________

Church Name & Address: ____________________________________________________________
IF NON-CATHOLIC BAPTISM, DID RESPONDENT MAKE A PROFESSION OF FAITH IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? (YES/NO) ___________
If yes date: ___________ Church Name & Address: ____________________________________________________________

List in chronological order all of the marriages that you, respondent, have entered, including “common law”.

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</table>

WITNESSES: I submit the following list of persons who will act as witnesses before the Tribunal

Mr.____ Mrs.____ Ms.____ Name: ___________________________________________________________
Relationship: ___________________ Address: _____________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip: ________________
Email: ___________________________

Mr.____ Mrs.____ Ms.____ Name: ___________________________________________________________
Relationship: ___________________ Address: _____________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip: ________________
Email: ___________________________

Mr.____ Mrs.____ Ms.____ Name: ___________________________________________________________
Relationship: ___________________ Address: _____________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip: ________________
Email: ___________________________

FOR TRIBUNIAL USE ONLY

NOTARY ___________________________________________ DATE ______________________

4
Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma

Case Name: _________________________________

MANDATE

APPOINTMENT OF THE PETITIONER'S PROCURATOR

In accord with canon 1481 § 1, I, the undersigned party, as the Petitioner in the above-named case of Declaration of Invalidity of marriage, before the Tribunal of the Diocese of Tulsa as Court of First Instance, hereby name and appoint: _________________________________, as my Procurator in this matter, with all rights, privileges and limitations afforded by ecclesiastical law (d.c.104 §2).

APPOINTMENT OF THE PETITIONER'S ADVOCATE

I, the undersigned party, also hereby name and appoint the same person as indicated above, to serve as my Advocate with all rights, privileges and limitations afforded by ecclesiastical law (d.c.104 §2).

_____________________________________________ ________________________
Petitioner / Date

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MANDATE

According to the norms of law, I, the undersigned, hereby accept the mandate of appointment as the Procurator-Advocate of the above-named party and hereby present it to the Court in accord with the norm of c. 1484 § 1, and promise to maintain confidentiality (d.c.104 §1).

_____________________________________________ ________________________
Procurator-Advocate / Date
DIOCESE OF TULSA PETITIONER’S AGREEMENT

1. No assurance can be given of an Affirmative decision, that is, one granting the declaration of invalidity. No assurance can be given as to a definite time for the completion of the canonical process.

2. **Absolutely no arrangements can be made for a future Catholic marriage or convalidation until a final and favorable decision from the Tribunal has been received and I have received the final decree from the Diocese of Tulsa.***

3. If the circumstances causing the invalidity of the marriage so indicate, the Tribunal may require that I meet certain conditions (e.g., professional evaluation/counseling, pastoral counseling, etc.) before I can marry in the Catholic Church.

4. I realize that Church Law requires that my former spouse be contacted and offered the opportunity to testify.

5. I understand that my former spouse has a right to know my allegations and the names of witnesses who will be asked to provide testimony.

6. I understand that my former spouse has a right to object to these witnesses and to nominate others.

7. I understand that my former spouse has a right to review my testimony in the case.

8. I understand that my former spouse has the right to be notified of the decision and to appeal.

I will follow the directions of the Tribunal and cooperate in the production of all evidence, be it fact, deposition, or documentation by whatever method is deemed necessary.

I affirm that my witnesses have knowledge of the facts of my marriage and that they are willing to cooperate with the Tribunal. I agree that the witnesses will offer their testimony by questionnaire or as determined by the Tribunal. I will not tell these persons what to write in their testimony.

I understand and accept that this is a purely ecclesiastical procedure which has no civil effects and that all the information gathered in this matter is privileged and confidential for the use of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Tulsa and any other ecclesiastical Court.

I hereby release the Tribunal of the Diocese of Tulsa from any bonds of confidentiality regarding my prior marriage so that the material in my case can be reviewed by and discussed with professional counselors and with those who are involved in the preparation for any future Catholic marriage.

Furthermore, by the signature below, I, the Petitioner, hereby declare that I have been fully informed, do clearly understand, and fully agree to accept all of the conditions specified in the Petition.

Petitioner: __________________________________________________________ Date: __________________

Advocate: __________________________________________________________ Date: ________________
COUNSELOR/ADVOCATE BRIEF
PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (Please type or print in ink)

1. In the first session with a new Petitioner, either offer to answer any questions which he/she may have; or more easily, give handouts such as 10 QUESTION ABOUT ANNULMENT by Joseph Champlin, or any other pertinent materials. Ideally the Petitioner would read these handouts before you give him/her the questionnaire to be filled out.

2. Give questionnaire (2016 Rev.) to Petitioner to take home.

3. After the Petitioner has given you his/her answers to the questionnaire, study them carefully to notice areas in which he/she may be in need of pastoral counseling either now and/or in preparation for marrying in the Church.

4. As Advocate; to maximize your helpful influence as Advocate on behalf of the petitioner, your answers to the following questions will be important:

   1. How well or how long have you known the Petitioner?

   2. If you know the former spouse, is there anything which you think the Tribunal members should know about him/her?

   3. Why is the Petitioner seeking a Declaration of Nullity at this time?

   4. If the Petitioner is Catholic, does he/she attend Mass regularly?

   5. What is your evaluation in regard the credibility of the petitioner?

   6. What is your estimate of the present level of the Petitioner’s maturity?
7. Do you think that, after having received the required Preparation for marriage, the Petitioner will have an acceptable degree of readiness for Christian marriage?

8. Is there anything which you wish to add in favor of the Petitioner and/or in favor of his/her petition?

Date: ____________________

Parish: __________________________________________

Canonical Counselor/Advocate: __________________________________________
PASTOR’S AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT

TO THE TRIBUNAL OF THE DIOCESE OF TULSA, OKLAHOMA:

I, the undersigned, do hereby solemnly affirm, as regards this proposed cause for marital nullity or dissolution, and specifically about this person:

Name of either the Petitioner or Respondent:___________________________________

(Two affidavits must be filed if the pastor has knowledge of both parties to a marriage.)

Relative to this person:

(check one)

_____ 1. I know the person named above quite well. I affirm my conviction that he/she will fairly and reliably tell the truth, and so I do recommend that the utmost credibility be given his/her statements in this matter.

   or

_____ 2. I know who the person named above is, but I do not know him/her particularly well. While I have no reason to doubt his/her veracity, I cannot affirm this in an official capacity.

   or

_____ 3. From my knowledge of the person named above, I do not recommend that his/her recollections and perspectives be accepted uncritically.

   or

_____ 4. I do not know the person named above at all, and am unable to offer any recommendations as to his/her veracity.

(Also check if true)

_____ 5. Due to knowledge which I possess in the external forum about one or both of the parties to this case, family background, and/or about their marital consent, I am able to serve as a witness in this case and offer this possibility to the Tribunal as needed.

_______________________________________                 _______________________  
Signature of Pastor of Parish submitting petition       Date Signed