



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Office of the Tribunal

215 N. Westnedge Street, Kalamazoo MI 49007-3760; 269-903-0215

Witness Supplement Form

Please read the following carefully before asking someone to be a witness

THE ROLE OF THE WITNESS:

- A. Witnesses must know the background of the party/parties in your case, the history of your relationship, and/or the reason(s) for the breakdown of the marriage being examined.
B. They are NOT character references. They do not simply sign a document. They must give their testimony in writing.
C. Witnesses must know about at least some of these topics in order to be a qualified and helpful witness:
a. Background of the party/parties before the marriage being examined.
b. Period of courtship and engagement and the reasons(s) for the marriage.
c. Intentions of the party/parties before and during the marriage regarding children (if pertinent).
d. Intentions of the party/parties before marriage regarding fidelity and a life-long union.
e. Detailed description of the relationship, with specific problems, during the marriage.
D. Witnesses must possess such information before an application was sent to the Tribunal. In other words, you cannot tell the witnesses what to say.

SELECTION OF WITNESSES:

Acceptable witnesses are the people who know about the background of one or both of the parties and their relationship to one another. They may know of the information either first-hand or have learned of it from someone else, including you, before you started the annulment process.

Witnesses may be members of your immediate family or in-laws from your previous union. They may be friends, employers, co-workers, former roommates, fellow students, members of your wedding party or neighbors. Consider carefully who knew you, knew of your intentions and problems, and people to whom you confided. We do not encourage minors under the age of fourteen to be witnesses. We also do not suggest the children from the former union or a prospective spouse to be witnesses, unless you request special circumstances why they should be allowed to testify.

THREE WITNESSES TO VERIFY YOUR TESTIMONY IS THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM

We cannot stress how important witness selection is. Witnesses without knowledge of your dating/engagement period and time married only delay your case while you look for more witnesses.

Prepare a list of people whom you think are potential witnesses.

Speak to each of them personally.

Explain what they must do and ASK if they are willing to participate.

VERIFY their name and address then complete the Witness List form.

Questions to be answered by the Petitioner:

- 1. Did YOU contact EACH witness included on the Witness List form? [ ] Yes [ ] No
2. Did YOU explain to EACH person what he/she must do on your behalf as explained above? [ ] Yes [ ] No
3. Does EACH witness possess significant information AND agree to provide their testimony? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Signature of Petitioner or Respondent

Date