



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Office of the Tribunal

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

STATEMENT OF TRIBUNAL POLICY IN DOCUMENTARY PROCESS

(only cases regarding Impediments, including Ligamen, or defect of legitimate form are resolved by this process)

The proceedings of this tribunal are exclusively religious in nature and governed solely by the laws of the Roman Catholic Church.

The purpose of this investigation is to determine the status of the parties in the Roman Catholic Church, and to ascertain their freedom to enter into a marriage that will be recognized by the Church. It has no civil effects or consequences.

It is the tribunal's desire that these proceedings may be a healing experience, conducted in a spirit of Christian justice and compassion.

No one should set a definite wedding date until the tribunal informs the parties of their freedom to marry.

Documentary cases rely on authentic documents that prove facts. There is the possibility that the tribunal might not be able to grant a declaration of invalidity due to the inadequacy of documents that are presented as proof or another factor established in canon law. A documentary case can proceed only after all the necessary information is received. Therefore, the tribunal is not able to set a specific time period for the completion of the process.

It is the policy of the tribunal to disclose any information about a case only to the parties, and to those duly authorized ecclesiastical officials or other ecclesiastical tribunals who are directly involved in its resolution.

Because of the sensitive nature of the information gathered in this investigation, and because the tribunal wishes to promote a spirit of charity and equality, everything which is part of the process is considered confidential.

This information is never made available except as required by Church Law. It is not subject to the inspection of others or use in any civil proceedings.

Although authentic copies of certain ecclesiastical and civil documents must be provided to the tribunal in cases that are treated by the documentary process (cc. 1688-1690), they are not made available further by the tribunal.

Information about the progress of a case may be given only to the parties themselves or their procurators and advocates.

(Keep this document. Do not return it to the tribunal.)