



DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO TRIBUNAL
 215 N WESTNEDGE AVE.
 KALAMAZOO, MI 49007

APPLICATION FORM
 (use for any and each marriage case)

Please provide a response for EACH ITEM even if it does not apply.
 (if any items or signatures are incomplete, the application will be returned to the parish)

SECTION A

Applicant: **(Petitioner)**

Former Spouse: **(Respondent)**

Full Present Name	_____	_____
Maiden Name	_____	_____
Street Address	_____	_____
City, State, Zip	_____	_____
		Please Note: If the current address of the former spouse is not known, please complete the "whereabouts" form on page 5 of this application.
County of Residence	_____	_____
Date/Place of Birth	_____	_____
Phone	_____	_____
Employer/City	_____	_____
Email Address	_____	_____

SECTION B

Applicant: **(Petitioner)**

Former Spouse: **(Respondent)**

1. Has the person ever been baptized, sprinkled, christened?	Yes	No	Unknown	Yes	No	Unknown
Date when it took place	_____					
Name of Church	_____					
City / State	_____					
In what denomination?	_____					
Current religious affiliation?	_____					

SECTION B continued from page 1

2. If you or your former spouse are a Catholic convert, please list the date of baptism or profession of faith and the name of the church and city where it took place: Please Check *Petitioner and/or Respondent*

(Date) _____ (Church, city, state) _____

3. If not currently Catholic, are you planning to take instructions or join RCIA? Yes No

4. If either you or your former spouse were Catholic at the time of the wedding and the wedding did **not** take place in the Catholic Church:

Was permission obtained from the Catholic Church for this marriage? Yes No

Did the Catholic party ever formally leave the Catholic Church? Yes No, and if YES:

Was the marriage ever later convalidated in the Catholic Church? Yes No

Date: _____ Parish/city: _____

SECTION C

1. Age when you began dating each other: Man: _____ Woman: _____ Year: _____

2. How long did you date each other before becoming engaged? _____

3. Date of engagement _____ How long did the engagement itself last? _____

4. Ages at the time of the wedding: Man: _____ Woman: _____

5. How long did the marriage last (wedding to final separation)? _____

6. Number of children born: _____ Who has custody now? _____

List names and dates of birth of any children.

7. Date of final separation: _____ Date of civil divorce: _____

8. Name and place of civil court granting the divorce: _____

SECTION D

List in chronological order, **all** marriages you have entered, including any present union:

Full Maiden Name of Person you Married:	Date of Wedding:	Place of Wedding:
_____	_____	Church/Court _____ City/State _____
_____	_____	Church/Court _____ City/State _____
_____	_____	Church/Court _____ City/State _____

NOTE: *You will need to make a SEPARATE APPLICATION for each marriage listed above which needs a tribunal investigation and declaration of nullity.*

SECTION E

1. Was your former spouse ever married to someone else BEFORE being married to you? Yes No
*(Please answer the questions in this section for **each** previous spouse in chronological order, using additional paper if more than one previous marriage is involved.)*

2. Did that marriage end in death BEFORE your former spouse married you? Yes No

3. Was that marriage ever declared null by the Catholic Church? Yes No
*(If **Yes**, give the approximate date and name of the tribunal)*

4. Had that previous husband/wife of your former spouse ever been married before? Yes No

5. Religious affiliation of each of them at the time of that wedding? Man: _____ Woman: _____

6. If either one or the other party was Catholic, was that marriage in the Catholic church? Yes No

7. Please provide the following information about your former spouse’s previous husband/wife:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

INCOMPLETE ITEMS OR SIGNATURES WILL RESULT IN APPLICATION BEING RETURNED TO PARISH.

SECTION F

Are you currently civilly married? Yes No Planning to marry a certain person? Yes No

1. Information about your present/intended spouse:

Name _____ Maiden _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

Current religion _____

2. If you are currently civilly married:

Date of marriage: _____ Place of marriage: _____

3. Was your present/intended spouse ever married BEFORE marrying you? Yes No

If **Yes**, how many times? _____

Answer the following for **each** of your present/intended spouse's previous marriages, using additional paper if married more than once before:

Maiden name of person to whom married: _____

Place of Marriage: (Church/court) _____ (City, State) _____

Date of Marriage: _____ Date marriage ended: _____

Religion at time of marriage: Man: _____ Woman: _____

How did the marriage end (divorce, death, church nullity)? _____

NOTE: Your present/intended spouse will need to make a SEPARATE APPLICATION for each previous marriage if those marriages did not end in death or a declaration of church nullity.

STATEMENT REGARDING UNKNOWN WHEREABOUTS OF RESPONDENT

SKIP THIS PAGE ONLY IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE ADDRESS INFORMATION FOR THE RESPONDENT.

In accord with Canon law, every reasonable effort must be made to locate his/her whereabouts. Therefore, please complete the following questionnaire. Failure to do so will only delay the acceptance of your case. Thank you for your cooperation.

- 1. How long has it been since you were last in contact with your former spouse?

- 2. Describe briefly why there has been no contact.

- 3. Describe any reason why your former spouse might want to avoid being found by anyone.

- 4. Supply a complete and detailed list of steps you have taken to determine his/her current mailing address of residence, including a list of persons you questioned and any other sources such as websites, etc. (provide copies, if applicable.)

- 5. Please supply his/her last known mailing address. How long did he/she live at this address?

Street address including apartment number, PO Box, etc.

City, State, Zip

Do you have definite knowledge that he/she no longer lives at this address?

Would he/she likely receive any mail sent to this address?

- 6. Please supply the last known mailing address of his/her parent(s), closest relative, or any other person who might be willing to forward any mail to your former spouse. (Indicate complete mailing information)

Complete Name

Street address including apartment number, PO Box, etc.

City, State, Zip

- 7. Complete this section ONLY if you and your former spouse had children in the marriage:

a.	Does any child have contact with your former spouse?	Yes	No
b.	Are child support payments being made? If so, how are such payments sent to the spouse with custody?	Yes	No
c.	Does he/she make use of any visitation rights?	Yes	No
d.	Do you make use of any visitation rights?	Yes	No

Date

Petitioners Full Name

INCOMPLETE ITEMS OR SIGNATURES WILL RESULT IN APPLICATION BEING RETURNED TO PARISH.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO COMPLETE EACH ITEM.

Please check to make sure the necessary documents are enclosed and all signatures have been completed. Anything missing may cause a delay in processing.

Any Catholic baptismal certificates should be recently issued (**within the last six months**) and should have all notations indicated.

If the civil marriage license was not granted by the State of Michigan, please obtain and submit a copy of the "application for marriage license" along with the marriage license.

FORMAL CASES

- _____ Completed Application Form
- _____ Civil Marriage License (and Application if necessary)
- _____ Divorce Decree
- _____ Baptismal Certificates
- _____ Completed Preliminary Statement
- _____ All Signatures Completed on All Forms

LACK OF FORM CASES

- _____ Completed Application Form
- _____ Civil Marriage License (and Application if necessary)
- _____ Divorce Decree
- _____ Baptismal Certificates
- _____ All Signatures Completed on All Forms

LIGAMEN CASES (PRIOR BOND)

- _____ Completed Application Form
- _____ Civil Marriage License (and Application if necessary)
- _____ Divorce Decree
- _____ Baptismal Certificates
- _____ Marriage License of former spouse's first marriage
- _____ List of Witnesses
- _____ All Signatures Completed on All Forms

PRIVILEGE CASES

- _____ Completed Application Form
- _____ Baptismal Certificates
- _____ Civil Marriage License (and Application if necessary)
- _____ Divorce Decree
- _____ List of Witnesses that can attest to baptismal status of each party (min. 2 for each party)
- _____ All Signatures Completed on All Forms

Decrees or declarations generated by the Tribunal are Church property and are to be kept in the permanent parish file, not given to the parties.

I hereby affirm that all the above information is true and I petition the Tribunal to hear my case.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Priest/Deacon/Advocate

Date

Church Name

Church Address

Church Phone

SETTING A WEDDING DATE

Members of the Tribunal process each case as quickly as possible. Please keep in mind that aside from the required waiting periods and deadlines dictated in Canon Law so that those involved have an appropriate opportunity to respond, the Tribunal can in no way guarantee or predict the outcome.

Understandably, many people want to set a date immediately for an upcoming wedding in order to begin making arrangements. But **NO DATE MAY BE SET** until the declaration of nullity is received.

Additionally, the declaration of nullity may not be the only required action before a new wedding may take place. At times, an issue or problem from a previous marriage still exists, as far as the Tribunal can determine from the information at hand. The Tribunal Judge may prohibit another wedding until those issues are addressed so that the new union is not invalid for the same reasons as the previous one. In this case there may be other requirements to fulfill before the new wedding, for example, counseling, rehabilitation for substance abuse, or ensuring a true understanding of the Catholic teaching on marriage. Also, any couple entering marriage must receive pre-marital preparation.

No person should ever presume that he or she has permission to marry or that the parish priest has made a reservation or commitment to officiate at a wedding ceremony simply because a case has been started at the Tribunal. Neither the Diocesan Tribunal in Kalamazoo nor the Court of Appeal in Detroit can rush a case simply because a couple has some date in mind for a wedding or mistakenly believes that a date has been guaranteed by the parish priest.

Therefore, a party who submits a case to the Tribunal may NOT set a wedding date until:

- 1) the Court of Appeal makes its decision, and the parties receive the final affirmative decree;**
- 2) he or she fulfills any requirements set by the Tribunal Judges AND the appropriate Chancery authority removes the restriction set by the Judge.**

I understand and accept this policy of the Diocesan Tribunal of Kalamazoo and will not set a wedding date until the above two conditions have been fulfilled.

Signature of Petitioner

Signature of Presenter/Advocate

Date

Date

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIBUNAL?

Church law (known as canon law from the statutes and canons of which it is composed) calls for the existence of a tribunal in every diocese in the world. Every governing body has an executive, a legislative, and a judicial branch. The tribunal is the judicial branch of the local church government. In Kalamazoo, the tribunal is under the direction of the Bishop of Kalamazoo and is supervised by his delegate, the judicial vicar. Through a specially trained and experienced staff, assistance is offered to people who formally request that the Church study a marriage to determine whether or not the parties are bound.

Over the course of the centuries, the Church has learned that certain intentions and capabilities must be brought to a relationship by the parties involved for a true marriage to occur. Without these intentions and capabilities, there can be no true marriage. In such a situation, there is no permanent bond, regardless of external appearances or subsequent events. The parties who were involved in a union of this sort cannot be considered permanently bound to such a relationship, and they have a right to have their free status recognized in an official way. The purpose of a marriage case before a Catholic Church tribunal is to determine whether the parties are bound to the prior marriage by investigating whether the bond of marriage as the Church understands it ever came into being.

There are no civil effects to a church declaration of nullity. A church declaration of nullity does not in any manner affect the legitimacy of children, property rights, inheritance rights, visitation rights, names, etc. It is a declaration from the Catholic Church that a particular union, presumably begun in good faith and thought of by all as a marriage, was in fact an invalid union as the Church defines marriage. There is no attempt in the process to impute guilt or punish individuals. On the contrary, the purpose of the tribunal procedure is to serve the conscience and spirit of the petitioning party and to reconcile people to full sacramental participation in the family of the Church.

In order to arrive at a decision about the nullity of a marriage, the tribunal applies the gospel teachings of Jesus Christ and the canon law of the Catholic Church to the situation in question. The ministry of the tribunal is concerned with the dignity of marriage and the good of the individual parties. The tribunal works toward this end by carefully protecting the right of the parties as well as the rights of the Church, which understands itself to be charged by Jesus Christ as the guardian of the sacrament of marriage.

There is no fee for the tribunal services in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The tribunal is subsidized by the people of the diocese through the annual Catholic Services Appeal. The cost of resolving marriage cases is approximately \$525 per case. All we ask is that you keep the church in mind and consider making a donation of some sort to the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Your generosity will help to provide for others the same service you have received.