

SELF TESTIMONY OF PETITIONER

In order to determine whether your marriage can be considered invalid, according to the Code of Canon Law, it is necessary that the Tribunal officials understand your background, the background of your former spouse, what gave rise to your marriage, what happened in your relationship and the factors that may have influenced you at marriage and its subsequent break-up. Therefore, you are asked to write in your own words your entire story and commenting on every item outlined below.

Please be advised that all canonical proceedings in the Metropolitan Tribunal, Court of Second Instance and the Holy See are strictly confidential. Anything communicated to any of the mentioned courts is treated with utmost secrecy. None of these proceedings or their outcome can be used to change civil court determinations already made or to be made concerning the divorce settlement, child custody or child support. All matters are strictly confidential.

Be assured that these proceedings are for the sole purpose of arriving at a true determination of the validity, according to the Code of Canon Law, of the marriage in question. In no way will this determination affect the legitimacy of any children born of this union. The Church holds these children as legitimate no matter what the outcome of the case may be.

PLEASE TYPE

A. Background of Each Party

1. For Yourself

- a. Describe the character of each of your parents and your estimate of who was the dominant one in the home; number of brothers and sister; your position in the family; relationship with brothers and sisters; each parent's relationship with you; each parent's relationship with your siblings.
- b. Account of school life and grades, religious practice; ease or difficulty in making and keeping friends.
- c. Medical history; unusual fears or preoccupations in childhood or later on in life.
- d. History of dating; and whether any earlier serious romances and, if so, why terminated; history of attitude toward sex and any problems.
- e. Were there long-range goals or did you live for only the moment; work record; how dependable? How responsible? Frequency of job change.
- f. Any problem with gambling, drugs, alcohol, pornography, promiscuity, handling money—save money regularly or spending foolishly
- g. Evaluate your own personality traits, areas of strength and areas of weaknesses
 - i. For example: inferiority complex, superiority complex, sensitivity to the needs of others, nervousness, quick tempered, moody, jealous, selfish, ungrateful, habitual liar, habitual cheating, conduct erratic and unpredictable, often outlandish and fantastic; good judgment in everyday situation or poor judgment. (Provide as many examples as possible)

2. For Your Former Spouse

- a. *Cover the same points as above...*

B. Courtship

- a. Detail the length of your courtship, how did you meet?; frequency and kind of dates; source of attraction; any problems in dating; whether the relationship ever ended and why.
- b. How topic of marriage arose; part that each played in the wedding preparations; reaction of each family to the wedding plans; was there unusual pressure to marry; was marriage an escape from home situation?
- c. Attitude and use of sex during courtship; was there pregnancy before marriage? Was there any reluctance to marry? Attitude of each to fidelity; attitude of each to permanence of marriage.
- d. Attitude of each to divorce; attitude of each to children.
- e. Emotional problems; displays of temper; drinking patterns.
- f. Any doubts arise which questioned whether to marry or not?

C. Wedding and Honeymoon

- a. Marriage preparation; amount, if any; from whom.
- b. Attitude of each at wedding and reception; any unusual incidents on the wedding day, where and how long was the honeymoon; was the honeymoon a pleasant experience;
- c. When was the marriage consummated; use of sex in the entire marriage and sensitivity of each other's needs

D. Married Life

- a. Length of marriage; attitude of each to work and responsibilities; attitude toward having children as well as attitude to children once born.
- b. Physical or emotional mistreatment
- c. How committed were to marriage were you?
- d. Use of free time; part parents played in marriage.
- e. Use of money, alcohol, gambling
- f. When did problems arise and over what?
- g. Use of professional help.
- h. Any earlier separations—cause of them and why you went back together.

E. Final Separation

- a. Were there previous separations, when, how long, cause.
- b. Cause of final separation; any attempt at reconciliation; any possibility of reunion; has either party remarried.
- c. Comments from relative and friends now that you have separated.

F. Psychiatric Care

- a. If either party has psychiatric care or professional counseling, give the names and addresses of the psychiatrist(s)/psychologist(s) or counselor(s), the number of times consulted, and the approximate dates of consultations; diagnosis
- b. Would you be willing to contact such a person to obtain his/her cooperation if the Tribunal deems it relevant to the case?

G. PLEASE SIGN AND DATE YOUR TESTIMONY