



**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BOISE**  
**MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL**  
**1501 S. Federal Way, Suite 400**  
**Boise, Idaho 83705**  
**(208) 344-1344 – (208) 344-1772 (fax)**

Dear Petitioner:

Enclosed you will find the petition forms to begin a formal marriage nullity case in the Marriage Tribunal of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise.

Some things to keep in mind as you begin this process:

1. Please **do not** submit any information to our office until your civil divorce is granted. All Petitions submitted without necessary documentation will be returned.
2. Complete every question. Make sure facts and dates are as accurate as possible. Throughout this form **you are the PETITIONER**. The section entitled **RESPONDENT** is for information regarding **your former spouse**.
3. In order to process your case the following documents **must** be included: If Catholic, a recently issued (within six months) **baptismal certificate** with annotations for you and/or the Respondent (*these can be obtained through the church of baptism*), a **civil marriage license & certificate** and a complete **final divorce decree which has been signed by the judge (no attorney copies, please)**.
4. **All** former marriages must be considered. Therefore, if you have been married more than once, a separate petition must be submitted for **each** previous marriage. (This would not be necessary if your former spouse(s) is/are deceased.)
5. Church law requires us to contact your former spouse and offer him/her a chance to participate in the review process. **It is necessary that you provide a current address for your former spouse**. If necessary, please provide the name of a relative of your former spouse. If the former spouse truly cannot be located, please complete the enclosed form entitled “*Unlocatable Respondent Form*” found in this packet.
6. In preparing your testimony, please be as complete as possible. Yes and no answers are seldom sufficient. Please explain fully your answers in the questionnaire.
7. There are **no civil effects** to a Church declaration. This process pertains to Church matters only.
8. **NO GUARANTEE can be given as to how long your case will take to complete, nor can the Tribunal guarantee an “affirmative” decision being made concerning your petition. A “negative” decision means that the validity of the marriage in question has been upheld and neither party may remarry in the Catholic Church.**



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**BRIEFER PROCESS**

Much has been made about Pope Francis' "briefer" process" which takes approximately 4 months to complete. To qualify to use this method, your former spouse must consent in writing to the briefer process. If they refuse or you do not want to ask your former spouse to consent to the briefer process or you do not want the Tribunal to contact the Respondent to ask for their consent, the case will still be processed, but through the "Ordinary Process," which may take up to a year to complete.

An additional requirement for the Tribunal to use the streamlined process is that the circumstances surrounding the time of consent which support the nullity of the marriage must be manifest (i.e., obvious, clear, compelling, unmistakable, etc.) and documented with the petition. Therefore it is important to be as complete as possible in providing your testimony later in this packet.

If your case qualifies for the briefer process, your witnesses will be contacted as soon as possible. **Please** inform them that you have asked that they be a witness to your case and **return their questionnaire within 30 days of receipt. Lack of witness testimony will delay your case.**

**\*\*\*ANY FORMAL CASE WHICH DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR THE "BRIEFER PROCESS" WILL BE ADJUDICATED THROUGH THE ORDINARY PROCESS.** If the Tribunal is unable to complete your case using the new briefer process, for what-ever reason, that does not mean your case cannot or will not be completed. Instead, the case will be completed through what is known as the "ordinary process."

No matter which process is used for your petition, please note that **NO FUTURE WEDDING DATE, NOT EVEN A TENTATIVE ONE, MAY BE SET IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BEFORE YOU RECEIVE A DECREE OF NULLITY TO MARRY FROM THE TRIBUNAL.**

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask your parish based advocate. You may also call the Tribunal at the number listed above.

**Bring the completed forms to your Advocate to review the material you are submitting, including your testimony, and to sign the forms with you. Your Advocate will forward your packet to the Tribunal for you.**

**We strongly encourage you to photocopy the application and documents for your records.**

Thank you,

Tribunal Staff