



DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY
225 MAIN STREET STE 100 • PO BOX 678
RAPID CITY • SOUTH DAKOTA 57709-0678
(605) 343-3541 Ext. 2244 • FAX (605) 348-7985

Dissolution of a Ratified and Non-Consummated Marriage Instructions for the Petitioner:

Canon Law outlines this type of case is to be processed by the Holy See. The Ratified and Non- Consummated Marriage cases are presented to the Roman Rota. These cases are subject to the fees assigned by Rome, and therefore the Petitioner is advised to cover the expenses as outlined by Rome.

Can. 1142 For a just cause, the Roman Pontiff can dissolve a non-consummated marriage between baptized persons or between a baptized party and a non-baptized party at the request of both parties or of one of them, even if the other party is unwilling.

Please review the following instructions before completing this form:

1. This questionnaire is designed to present a clear history of both parties to this marriage. It includes questions regarding the two parties' home of origin, early life, courtship, engagement, marriage, separation and divorce.
2. Please give complete answers and offer examples where needed. It is important to explain your beliefs, feelings and attitudes prior to and leading up to this marriage.
3. **Offer detailed information.** One and two word answers are not acceptable and will delay your case. A follow-up interview will be required if information is inadequate. Please call the interest pastor if you have any questions.
4. The Petitioner answers this **entire** form. A separate form will be mailed to the Respondent (your former spouse).

Necessary information to begin the process:

Be sure that the following are included in the paperwork to the Tribunal:

- Application Form completely filled out.
- The petitioner's Baptismal Certificate (mandatory if Catholic; desirable if non-Catholic)
- The respondent's Baptismal Certificate (mandatory if Catholic; desirable if non-Catholic)

The Catholic parties baptismal certificate must be the original certificate received from the parish not a copy, it must be dated with six (6) months of submitted application date, and with the Notations.

- A copy of the Certificate of Marriage
- A copy of the Judgment & Decree of Divorce
- The petitioner's "Question and Answer" section

Make a copy of the application, documents, and the question/answer section for your records.

Once you have completed all of the above, please give it all to your interested pastor. The pastor will complete his portion and submit your application, documents, and the question/answer section to the Tribunal on your behalf.



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Dissolution of a Ratified and non-consummated Marriage

(For Tribunal use only)

Case:

Date Received:

Protocol Number:

Date Accepted:

Petitioner (You):

Respondent (Former Spouse):

Legal Maiden Name (if applicable)

Legal Maiden Name (if applicable)

Legal Current Name

Legal Current Name

Mailing Address

Mailing Address

City State Zip Code

City State Zip Code

()
Phone Email

()
Phone Email

Birth: Date City State

Birth: Date City State

Current Age Age at time of wedding

Current Age Age at time of wedding

Baptism Date Religion

Baptism Date Religion

Name of Church and address

Name of Church and address

Current Church Affiliation

Current Church Affiliation

When did you begin dating each other? _____

Date of your engagement? _____

The wedding: _____
Date Church and denomination City State

When did you separate? _____

The divorce: _____
Date County State



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Your Holiness,

I, the undersigned, _____, a Catholic, born at _____
on _____, was baptized at _____ Church
in _____ on _____. On _____
at _____ Church in _____, I married
_____, a (non-) Catholic baptized on _____ at
Church in _____.

Present briefly the couple's first meeting and courtship, reasons why the marriage was not consummated and a summary of the evidence to be presented to prove non-consummation.

Petitioner's Signature

Date



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Formal Statement of Petition:

I understand and agree to cover the costs assigned by the Holy See, Rome to process my cause.

I understand that a dispensation cannot be granted until I have provided sufficient evidence that my marriage was not consummated.

I understand that submitting this petition does not guarantee that a dispensation will be granted.

I understand that the rights of the Respondent (my former spouse) will be protected.

I have the obligation to exhaust all reasonable means to locate my former spouse and provide the Tribunal with a current address and phone number. I agree to document what attempts I made to locate my former spouse.

I may NOT set a date for marriage in the Catholic Church until the dispensation is granted.

The dispensation of a marriage is an ecclesiastical matter and has no bearing whatsoever in civil law.

I understand that all information submitted will become solely the property of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Rapid City and that these proceedings are for Church purposes only and have no civil effect whatsoever.

I understand that only the Petitioner and the Respondent may seek information regarding this case. Inquiries should include the case name and protocol number.

I understand that children born to this union do not become illegitimate as a consequence of such a dispensation.

I understand that the Tribunal may recommend /require pre-marital preparation or counseling prior to my entering into a future marriage.

I understand that if a dispensation is granted, there may be restrictions on my entering a future marriage if I am not fulfilling my moral and civil obligations to my former spouse/children.

I solemnly swear before God and my conscience that the information provided by me in this application is the truth insofar as I know it.

Petitioner's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parish, City: _____



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Witnesses:

- Select witnesses for both the petitioner and the respondent, persons who knew you during childhood, courtship, and at the time of the marriage. **NO** witnesses that only knew you after the marriage.
- Petitioner **MUST** call witnesses and ask their permission to be included in this process and verify their address and email.
- A married couple, such as parents, is considered ONE witness and should use only one space.
- Petitioner needs to name six witnesses. Failure to do so could result in a lack of testimony and the Tribunal requesting additional witnesses which will prolong the case.

1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Phone	Email	
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Street	City	State	Zip code
	_____	_____		
	Relationship (example: Brother)	To whom (Petitioner/Respondent/Both)		
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Phone	Email	
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Street	City	State	Zip code
	_____	_____		
	Relationship (example: Brother)	To whom (Petitioner/Respondent/Both)		
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Phone	Email	
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Street	City	State	Zip code
	_____	_____		
	Relationship (example: Brother)	To whom (Petitioner/Respondent/Both)		
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Phone	Email	
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Street	City	State	Zip code
	_____	_____		
	Relationship (example: Brother)	To whom (Petitioner/Respondent/Both)		
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Phone	Email	
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Street	City	State	Zip code
	_____	_____		
	Relationship (example: Brother)	To whom (Petitioner/Respondent/Both)		
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Phone	Email	
	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Street	City	State	Zip code
	_____	_____		
	Relationship (example: Brother)	To whom (Petitioner/Respondent/Both)		



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Writing the Personal History of your marriage:

- The history should be written in story form, detailed and should include the areas of information listed below.
- The history should be **TYPED** if possible. If not, be sure it is LEGIBLE. Use only one side of the paper.
- It is best to take time to reflect as you write. This reflection time helps you recall your experiences.
- Please answer all questions completely.

Family History / Early Life

1. Please describe your family of origin. Were there problems in either family that affected your ability to establish a stable marriage? (Abuse, addictions, repeated infidelity, multiple divorces/remarriage, extreme strictness, serious illness?)
2. Please describe your former spouses' family of origin. Were there problems in either family that affected your ability to establish a stable marriage? (Abuse, addictions, repeated infidelity, multiple divorces/remarriage, extreme strictness, serious illness?)
3. In what religion were you raised?
4. Does the religion you were raised in teach any type of aversion to sexuality?
5. In what religion was your former spouse raised?
6. Does the religion your former spouse was raised in teach any type of aversion to sexuality?
7. Did you or your ex-spouse have physical or psychological problems during your childhood? Please explain
8. Did you or your ex-spouse suffer abuse (physical, emotional, sexual) during your childhood? Please explain
9. Did you or your ex-spouse have any traumatic experience during your childhood or adolescence (including the death of a parent or close family member)? Please explain

Dating

1. What age were you when you first met your former spouse?
2. What age was your former spouse when you first met him?
3. What attracted you to your former spouse?
4. Please describe your previous dating experience prior to your former spouse.
5. What was the frequency of the dates?
6. What type of activities did you do on dates?
7. Did you share interests, morals and goals?
8. What type of problems were there during the dating period?
9. Did you have sexual relationships during the dating period?
10. Did you live together prior to marriage? If so, explain for how long and the circumstances and thought process that went into the decision to live together.

Engagement

1. Do you feel like there any internal or external pressure for you to marry? Please explain.
2. What brought up the subject of engagement and marriage?
3. Did you believe yourself to be in love with your former spouse?
4. Why did you marry your former spouse? Please explain the thought process that went into your decision to marry.
5. Were both open to children?
6. Were both ready for the responsibilities of marriage and children? Please explain why you believe you were or were not ready for the responsibilities of marriage and children.
7. Did your parents and family agree to your intention to marry? If they did not agree with your decision to marry your former spouse, please explain why.



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8. Did your ex-spouse' parents and family agree to your former spouses' intention to marry? If they
9. did not agree with your former spouses' intention to marry you, please explain why.
10. Did you use any type of force or violence to get your former spouse to agree to marry you? If yes, explain.
11. Did your former spouse use any type of force or violence to get you to agree to marry? If yes, explain.

The Wedding

1. Did you receive pre-marriage instruction from a Catholic priest or deacon? If so, please explain any issues that came up during the pre-marital instruction.
2. At the time of preparing for your wedding what did you believe "lifetime marriage" to mean?
3. Do you believe you married for the right reasons? Please explain why.
4. Did you or your former spouse express any doubts or questioned if you were doing the right thing? Please explain.
5. What age were you at the time of the wedding?
6. What age was your former spouse at the time of the wedding?
7. Was this your first marriage?
8. Was this your former spouses first marriage?
9. Did anything unusual happen during the wedding or reception?
10. Did anything unusual happen during the honeymoon?
11. Did you and your former spouse have sexual relations on the honeymoon? If not, please explain the Circumstances of why you did not have sexual relations.
12. Are you and your former spouse related?

Marriage and Consummation

1. Once the marriage took place, did both of you sleep in the same room and in the same bed?
2. Did you have sexual intercourse shortly after you were married? If not, please explain the circumstances as to why not?
3. Were you or your former spouse afraid of contracting a sexually transmitted disease? Please explain.
4. Did you or your former spouse make any comments during the courtship, engagement, wedding or duration of the marriage about sexual orientation? Please explain.
5. Did you or your former spouse suffer from any physical defect or infirmity? If so, please explain.
6. Have any doctors been consulted in this regard? If so, please provide names and contact information.
7. What do you think were the reasons or causes why you or your former spouse did not or could not have sexual intercourse?
8. Do you have any physical or moral evidence that the marriage was not consummated? Please explain.
9. Did you or your former spouse change your behavior shortly after the wedding? Please explain.
10. Were there evident problems between you and your former spouse? If so, please explain.
11. Where did you and your former spouse live after the wedding and how long did you share that domicile?
12. Did you or your former spouse, either openly or confidentially discuss your marital problems with your parents, relatives, friends or other persons? If so, please provide names and contact information.
13. What caused the final separation? Please explain
14. Have you or your former spouse remarried?

Is there anything else you would like to add to your testimony?



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Write these words at the end of your answers:

I solemnly swear, before God and my conscience, that in this personal history, I have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, insofar as I know it.

1. Sign, date and place page numbers on your answers.
2. If necessary, and asked for please attach any documents (i.e., Medical Records, etc.)