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(Updated November 2025)

TRIBUNAL OFFICE

Very Rev. Timothy S. Hoag, JCL, Judicial Vicar
Tammi Williams, Ecclesiastical Notary

Case Name: _____

Prot. No.: _____

PAULINE PRIVILEGE

TO ESTABLISH THE FACT OF BAPTISM OR NON-BAPTISM OF:

UNDER OATH, THE PETITIONER ANSWERS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

I. GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1) What is your present full name? (Also maiden name, if woman) _____
- 2) What is your address? _____

- 3) What is your phone number? _____
- 4) Date and place of birth? _____
- 5) What is/was your father's name? _____
- 6) What is/was your mother's maiden name? _____
- 7) What was your father's religion at the time of your birth? _____
- 8) What was your mother's religion at that time? _____
- 9) To what degree did they practice their religion? _____
- 10) Did your parents believe in the necessity of infant baptism? _____
- 11) Did your parents or anyone else ever have you baptized (christened, sprinkled, or immersed) in infancy or in childhood? _____
- 12) Have you yourself, of your own accord, ever been baptized or christened at any time? _____

II. IF YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED

13) In what denomination? _____

14) Kindly state: When: _____

Where: _____

15) How old were you at the time of your baptism? _____

16) Kindly describe the ceremony which took place (if in infancy, as it was told to you). _____

17) How can we obtain a copy of your baptismal record (if baptized more than once, kindly give details)?

III. IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN BAPTIZED

18) What was the reason for its omission? _____

19) Who gave you this information? _____

20) Were you under the care and custody of your parents continuously during your childhood and youth?

21) If not, give the names and addresses of other guardians and the length of time spent with each. Please include the religion of each person. _____

22) Have you ever been gravely ill or were you ever in an institution or other place where baptism may have been administered without your knowledge? Kindly explain. _____

23) Did you attend Sunday school and church as a child or youth? _____

24) If so, when, where? Denomination of school and church? _____

25) Did you ever join any church? _____

26) If so, when, where and what church? _____

27) What is your religion at present? _____

28) Did your parents have any other members of your family baptized? _____ (If so, give names and addresses). _____

29) If any of them were baptized and you were not baptized, how do you explain the omission of your baptism? _____

IV. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MARRIAGE

30) Whom did you marry? _____

31) Was he/she ever baptized in any religion? _____

32) If so, when, where and by whom? _____

33) Exactly why did your marriage break up? _____

34) Was this the first marriage contracted by each? _____

If not, which of you was previously married? (Give details please) _____

35) What is the present name and address of your first spouse? (If address is unknown, give name and address of a relative of that person)

36) Is there any hope of reconciliation with your former spouse? _____

37) What is your parents' present address and phone number?

38) Kindly give us the names, addresses, and phone numbers of two witnesses to testify regarding your baptismal status.

1 _____	2 _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

39) Kindly give us the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the parents of your former spouse, or two witnesses, to testify regarding his/her baptismal status.

1 _____	2 _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

40) Did you ever discuss this problem with any other priest, or was it ever submitted before any other tribunal? If so, when, where, and before whom? _____

V. CONTEMPLATED MARRIAGE (Information regarding the person whom the Petitioner wishes to enter, or convalidate, marriage within the Church)

41) Present name, address, phone number, and religion: (if woman, maiden name)

Here the testimony is re-read to Petitioner, and he or she is then asked:

Have you anything to add to, or to change in, or to take away from your testimony as just re-read to you? _____

“I solemnly swear that I have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in answer to your questions. So help me, God.”

I submit with this Petition my written narrative (guidelines below), a certified copy of the record of marriage between the Respondent and myself, and a copy of the civil divorce decree granted for this marriage.

Petitioner

Sworn to and signed in my presence at

on this the ____ day of _____, 20____.

Pastor

GUIDELINES FOR TESTIMONY

A. Written Narrative

Please type or write carefully in narrative style, and on one side of the paper, your "history" in the following categories. It will help us if you keep the information in sequence and number the sections as we have. The questions themselves are only guidelines, and not to be answered one by one, but only used to guide your "story." Some may not apply to you at all.

1. Background of Petitioner: When and where were you born, and what was your place in the birth order? How many brothers and sisters did you have? Describe your home life, significant events from your school age years, how you got along socially and academically in school, type of discipline at home, your parent's

personalities and relationship with each other. How would you describe the place of religious faith in your growing up years? Was there alcohol abuse, divorce, extensive hospitalization, deaths of immediate family members, verbal, physical or sexual abuse? How would you describe your teen years? What image of marriage did you take with you from your experience of growing up in this family? How would you describe your personality at the time you left home? Were there significant developmental issues regarding sexuality? Was homosexuality an issue? How would you describe your relationships with friends, family?

2. Background of Respondent: Describe what you know of the background of your former spouse, using the above questions as a guide. Specify any significant differences from your background.

3. Dating, courtship and decision to marry: How and when did you meet? What attracted you to each other? How old were you when you began dating? Going steady? How did you treat each other during the time of dating? How did you arrive at decisions? Did you know and like each other's families? Had either of you been engaged or married before? Did you know this about each other? When and how did you become engaged? Were there any pressures that moved you toward marriage? Were you sexually involved with each other prior to marriage? Did you live together prior to marriage? Was alcohol abuse present during your dating? Was pregnancy a factor in your decision to marry? Was there any outside or internal pressure to marry at this time? To marry this person? Did you discuss seriously practice of religious faith, fidelity, children, problem solving, finances, prior to marriage? Was there any sign of emotional, physical or sexual abuse?

4. Wedding and honeymoon: Was your wedding day a happy time for you? For your spouse? Who made the decisions, and how were they made regarding the type of wedding, honeymoon plans, career options, where you would live, spacing of children and/or use of birth control? When was the marriage consummated? Was alcohol or other drug abuse present in either of you at the time of the wedding?

5. Marriage: What was your attitude and feelings regarding permanency, fidelity, equality issues, mutual respect? Did you both intend to have children, to raise them and educate them in faith? What was your religious practice during the duration of the marriage? Were there any problems in your sexual relationship? Did you have mutual friends? What was your relationship to your parents, and to the parents of your former spouse? If you had children, when were they born? How did you each respond to the responsibilities of parenting?

6. Divorce: When did you first realize your marriage was in trouble? What was your response? Did you seek marriage or personal counseling? Were there separations during the course of your common life? When and why did you finally separate? Who filed for divorce? Was it a mutual decision? If there were children, who received custody? Are child support payments current?

7. Current Situation: Describe your experience since the divorce. Have you had counseling or participated in any support groups? Is alcohol or the use of other drugs a problem for you at this time? For your former spouse? Has your former spouse remarried? Is there any hope or desire for reconciliation between you? Is there anything you would like to add that might help us further understand your experience of the marriage under study?

****PLEASE WRITE THESE WORDS AT THE END OF YOUR HISTORY:**

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

****PLEASE SIGN AND DATE YOUR NARRATIVE AND INCLUDE IT WITH THE PAPERWORK**