



**DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM
IN YOUR WEB BROWSER.**
Download and save this form
on your computer. Then use
Acrobat Reader to complete the form.

Office Use Only:
Date Rec'd: _____
Case Name: _____
Case #: _____

*This form must be filled out completely. Please print or type.
The essay (Libellus) accompanying this form will be sent to the Respondent.
If the Respondent is truly impossible to locate, please attach a record of
your attempts to do so.*

PETITION FOR A DECLARATION OF NULLITY

PETITIONER (YOU)	RESPONDENT (OTHER PARTY)
Current name: _____	Current name: _____
Maiden name (if applicable): _____	Maiden name (if applicable): _____
Present address: _____	Present address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____	Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____	E-mail: _____
Date of birth: _____ City: _____	Date of birth: _____ City: _____
Baptized? Yes No If so, date: _____	Baptized? Yes No If so, date: _____
Church of baptism: _____	Church of baptism: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Age at time of marriage: _____	Age at time of marriage: _____
Your religion at time of marriage: _____	Religion at time of marriage: _____
Your religion currently: _____	Religion currently: _____

CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP

Date when courtship began: _____ Length of courtship prior to engagement (yrs): _____

Date of engagement: _____ Length of engagement prior to marriage (yrs): _____

Date of marriage: _____ Length of marriage prior to divorce (yrs): _____

Church or place of marriage: _____

Address of church or place of marriage: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Minister or officiant of marriage: _____ Denomination (if applicable): _____

If a civil marriage, was it ever “blessed”/“validated” in the Catholic Church? Yes No If so where: _____

Date of separation: _____ Date of divorce: _____ County, state of divorce: _____

CHILDREN BORN OF THIS MARRIAGE

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Attach additional sheets as needed.

A declaration of nullity does not make children illegitimate if at least one of the parties has exchanged marital consent in good faith.

Has either party ever petitioned for a declaration of nullity of this marriage, whether before this tribunal or another tribunal?

Yes No If so, please indicate where and when: _____

INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER MARRIAGES

Was this the first marriage for both of you? Yes No

Please indicate any other marriages contracted by either party, whether before or after the marriage in question. If more space is needed, please include those marriages on a separate sheet.

PETITIONER RESPONDENT

Spouse: _____ Check all that apply below:
Religion of spouse: _____ If Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #: _____
Date of marriage: _____ If former spouse is dead, give date of death: _____
Location: _____ If civil divorce, give date of divorce: _____

Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church? Yes No

PETITIONER RESPONDENT

Spouse: _____ Check all that apply below:
Religion of spouse: _____ If Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #: _____
Date of marriage: _____ If former spouse is dead, give date of death: _____
Location: _____ If civil divorce, give date of divorce: _____

Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church? Yes No

For each marriage, please enclose, if applicable, certified civil marriage license, death certificate, divorce decree, and Catholic declaration of nullity.

PETITIONER'S CURRENT INTENTIONS

I have no plans to enter marriage

OR

Name of intended spouse: _____

Religion of intended spouse: _____

Has he/she ever been previously married? Yes* No

**If yes, please note that this other person is not free to marry in the Catholic Church unless his/her previous spouse has died or the marriage is declared invalid consequent to a separate petition for a declaration of nullity or a lack of canonical form.*

GROUNDS OF NULLITY

By petitioning for a declaration of nullity, you are making an allegation that your marriage was invalid due to some factor present on the day you exchanged marital consent. Consequently, a petition for a declaration of nullity must include the reason for petitioning; that is, the ground or grounds of nullity on which the marriage is being challenged. The petition must also indicate at least in a general way the facts on which the Petitioner is relying in order to demonstrate the nullity of marriage. Please refer to APPENDIX A on the diocesan website for EXPLANATIONS OF THE GROUNDS OF NULLITY and the sample petition when completing this section. APPENDIX B: THE MARRIAGE NULLITY PROCESS provides additional details about the process. Many parties find it helpful to solicit the assistance of their parish priest or a canonical advocate in completing this section.

Please complete the Libellus Form electronically providing the following information:

1. Basic facts of how you and the respondent met.
2. Basic descriptions of the courtship, the decision to marry, and the day of the wedding.
3. Summary of how the marriage failed.
4. Your impression of the ground(s) of nullity that should be used in this case.
5. List of the facts and proofs (e.g., witness testimony, doctor's reports, etc.) that may be used to support this case.
6. Additional information that you think would be useful to the Tribunal.

The information you provide will be sent to the Respondent. Based on the information you provide, the Tribunal will likely ask follow-up questions that deal specifically with your case. In many cases, the Petitioner will be asked to provide further written and oral testimony after the case has been accepted. If the Respondent chooses to participate in the trial, he or she will have an opportunity to see this additional information at a later time.

WITNESSES

In order to prove the nullity of a marriage, you must provide witnesses who will attest to the facts and proofs alleged about the proposed ground(s) of nullity. You must contact these witnesses in advance to ensure that they are willing to testify and to inform them that the Tribunal will be contacting them. The pace of the marriage nullity process is often connected to the responses of the witnesses.

WITNESS # 1	WITNESS # 2
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____	Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____	E-mail: _____
Date of birth: _____	Date of birth: _____
Relationship to the parties: _____	Relationship to the parties: _____

WITNESS # 3	WITNESS # 4
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____	Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____	E-mail: _____
Date of birth: _____	Date of birth: _____
Relationship to the parties: _____	Relationship to the parties: _____
WITNESS # 5	WITNESS # 6
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____	Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____	E-mail: _____
Date of birth: _____	Date of birth: _____
Relationship to the parties: _____	Relationship to the parties: _____

Necessary Documents:

Please enclose recently issued baptismal certificates for both parties if possible (within the last 6 months for Catholic parties), a certified civil marriage license, and the complete civil divorce decree.

Fees for the Process:

There is no fee for processing a cause of nullity. However, the Diocese of Gaylord incurs many expenses in doing so, e.g., for salaries, supplies, postage, etc. Many tribunals, as a matter of justice, pass on a portion of these expenses to the parties requesting a service. In this diocese, the annual Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) covers the cost of processing annulments. In other words, the Church or other people in the pews bear the expenses. Hence, all are encouraged to support the annual drive generously.

Right to an Advocate:

If you wish to receive the services of an advocate, please contact the Tribunal for further information regarding using in-house advocates or finding an external advocate.

Please sign and date the statement below:

I believe that the above-mentioned marriage was invalid according to the law of the Catholic Church based on the facts and proofs that are proposed herein, and I request that the Tribunal of the Diocese of Gaylord judge whether this marriage is proven to be invalid.

I recognize that the materials gathered for this judicial process are open to the officials of the Tribunal and are available for review by the psychological and other experts used by the Tribunal **and by the Respondent**.

I understand that no guarantee can be made as to the outcome of the case, that no definite time frame for the completion of a case can be established, and that **no date for a new marriage can be set by anyone unless and until an affirmative decision is issued and no appeal has been made by either party or the Defender of the Bond**.

I understand that the burden of overturning the legal presumption of canon 1060 that the marriage in question is valid rests with the Petitioner.

I swear before God and my conscience that all the information given in this petition is true insofar as I know.

Signature of Petitioner

Date

Signature of Pastor or Sponsor

Parish

City