Metropolitan Tribunal

ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE – PETRINE PRIVILEGE APPLICATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS

The present form can be filled in either by hand or, preferably, on the computer. If you use your computer, you will need the program Acrobat Reader, which you can download for free from the website adobe.com. Do not use your browser, as it won't allow you to save your file. If you choose to handwrite your answers, please write legibly. In any case, do not forget to sign where it is indicated.

Do not begin filling out this application until you have met with a Tribunal Advocate. Inquire in your parish or contact the Metropolitan Tribunal to learn how to select an Advocate. Take your time in completing the questionnaire. Answer all the questions as completely as possible. Taking some time now will save you time later. Please do not leave any blank answers. If something does not apply to your case, write "N/A."

In this questionnaire, you are the "Petitioner," and the other spouse of the marriage that you are asking to be dissolved is the "Other Party" (from now on, the OP). The person that you intend to marry in the Catholic Church is the "Intended Spouse." The mailing address of the OP is extremely important. Making sure that the address is correct will avoid delays. If you cannot provide the address for the OP, you will have to provide documentation of your efforts to locate it.

Please do not print this document on both sides of the pages.

DOCUMENTS

Please make sure that you are submitting all the required documents by completing the following checklist. Depending on the case, some documents will be required and some will be unnecessary. Please check the appropriate checkbox.

All documents submitted must be originals or copies authenticated by a notary public or by an ecclesiastical notary. Baptismal certificates must be recent and issued within the last 6 months.

Please keep a copy of any documents you submit, in case they are lost in the mail. Incomplete applications will be returned.

YES N/A DOCUMENT

- □ Mailing address of the OP or proof of your efforts to locate the OP.
- □ □ Baptismal certificate or certificate of reception in the Catholic Church for the Petitioner.
- □ □ Baptismal certificate or certificate of reception in the Catholic Church for the OP.
- □ □ Civil (and ecclesiastical, if it is the case) marriage certificate for the marriage to the OP.
- □ □ Decree of divorce for the marriage to the OP (containing judge's signature).
- □ □ Baptismal certificate for Catholic children of the Petitioner and the OP.
- Documents concerning other marriages of the Petitioner (marriage certificate, divorce decree, and ecclesiastical decree of nullity or decree of dissolution).
- □ □ Baptismal certificate or certificate of reception in the Catholic Church for the Intended Spouse.
- □ □ Marriage Certificate for Petitioner's civil marriage to the Intended Spouse.
- □ □ Baptismal certificate for Catholic children of the Petitioner and the Intended Spouse.
- □ □ Documents attesting the freedom to marry of the Intended Spouse (marriage certificate, divorce decree, and ecclesiastical decree of nullity or decree of dissolution for any marriages of the Intended Spouse).
- \Box Letter from the pastor (see page 10).

For Tribunal use: Date Received

Prot. Num.

AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

1. I understand that, if my case is accepted for consideration, it does not guarantee that an affirmative decision will be given.

2. I understand that I am not guaranteed that the case will be concluded by a certain date. As such, I agree to wait until I receive a final decision in writing before I set a definite date for a marriage in the Catholic Church.

3. I understand and accept that Canonical law obligates the Tribunal to contact the OP and present him or her with the opportunity to participate in the process. Therefore, I acknowledge that I must provide the full current address of the OP. All reasonable efforts to locate the OP must be exhausted by me. The requirement of contacting the OP may not be omitted.

4. I understand that I must contact my witnesses personally to inform them that I have started this case. I will ask my witnesses to respond.

5. All contents of this investigation will be kept confidential, reserved exclusively to the designated officials of the Catholic Church, according to the canon law of the Roman Catholic Church.

6. I understand that if, with occasion of the instruction of the case, the Metropolitan Tribunal were to learn about specific information, then by law the Metropolitan Tribunal may be required to report such information to legal authorities. Such information may include names or situations in which a minor has been subjected to physical or sexual abuse or neglect. I release the Archdiocese of Atlanta and its agents from any liability for disclosure of information to appropriate legal authorities about abuse of a minor.

7. I also understand that if, with occasion of the instruction of the case, the Metropolitan Tribunal were to learn about specific information regarding abuse (past or present) by clergy or other professional employees or volunteers of the various parishes and institutions of the Roman Catholic Church, this information will be reported to the Office of the Archbishop of Atlanta.

8. In recognition of the religious nature of this process, I voluntarily waive now, and in the future, any rights under civil law to subpoen the acts of the case in judicial discovery. This waiver is given without reservation, condition or limit of time.

9. I agree to keep confidential and secret any information that I shall learn in the course of the process because all testimony in this case is given for the possible ecclesiastical dissolution of my marriage. Since my interest is solely to present my case to the Tribunal, I promise not to use information that I may learn through the case in any other forum or for any other purpose.

10. I understand that no fees will be charged for any cases submitted to the Metropolitan Tribunal of Atlanta. However, I acknowledge that a fee will be required by the Holy See if the case is transmitted to Rome.

Accepted in (city, state) _____, on _____,

Signature of the Petitioner

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF DATA

The use of new technologies allows for more expedience and convenience in our communications. If you are willing to receive our communications electronically, please sign the acceptance below.

Definition of electronic case file transmission: For the purposes of this agreement, electronic transmission of data refers to the communication of information pertaining to the case, between the Petitioner and the Tribunal, via email and/or other appropriate electronic means.

Benefits of electronic case file transmission: The electronic transmission of case information reduces costs through the diminishment of paper consumption as well as postal fees. In addition to being cost-efficient, this also reduces delivery time and permits the rapid dissemination of information to all case handlers and case parties.

Risks of electronic case file transmission: Electronic transmission of case information presents an inherent level of risk to the confidentiality of information related to a Petitioner's case file. Although the email server of the Tribunal is encrypted, and documents are password-protected in an effort to maintain case file confidentiality, electronic transmission of material cannot guarantee confidentiality. By signing below and utilizing the electronic transmission system, the Petitioner acknowledges and agrees to the information and terms contained herein, and further waives any and all claims against, and agrees to hold harmless the Archbishop of Atlanta, the Tribunal and any sender of case information via electronic transmission, with respect to any and all claims, loss and/or damage arising from and/or related to the electronic transmission of case information.

Parties who may receive electronic case file transmission: Case information may be sent electronically from the Tribunal to the following parties: Judges, Psychologists, Counselors, Petitioner and/or OP Advocates, Defender of the Bond, Promoter of Justice, and Court of Second Instance.

I have read and understand the information provided to me regarding the Tribunal's release of information through electronic means, and I agree to the terms.

Do you want to receive our communications electronically? \Box Yes \Box No.

Accepted in (city, state) ______, on ______,

Signature of the Petitioner

OTHER PARTY'S GENERAL INFORMATION

City, State:	Preferred language: 🗆 English 🗆 Español 🗆 Tiếng Việt	Preferred language: 🗆 English 🗆 Español 🗆 Tiếng Việt	
First name:	Title:	Title:	
Middle name:			
Current last name:			
Maiden name:			
Gender: Male Female Gender: Male Female Street address:			
City, State:			
Zip code:	Street address:	Street address:	
Cell phone:	City, State:	City, State:	
Home phone:	Zip code:	Zip code:	
Email:	Cell phone:	Cell phone:	
Date of birth:	Home phone:	Home phone:	
Place of birth:	Email:	Email:	
Have you ever been baptized?	Date of birth:	Date of birth:	
Have you ever been baptized? Has the OP ever been baptized? Were you baptized at the time of the wedding? If yes, date of baptism: If yes, date of baptism: If yes, date of baptism: City, State: City, State: Religion or denomination of baptism: Religion or denomination of baptism: Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding: Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding: Current religion or denomination: Current religion or denomination: Current parish or congregation: Current parish or congregation: City, State: City, State: Will the OP in regular contact? Name of your Advocate: Why? Have you ever petitioned a Church Tribunal for ar annulment or dissolution of this or other marriages? City, State If yes, name of Tribunal:	Place of birth:	Place of birth:	
If yes, date of baptism: If yes, date of baptism: City, State:	Have you ever been baptized?	Has the OP ever been baptized?	
City, State:	Were you baptized at the time of the wedding?	Was OP baptized at the time of the wedding?	
Religion or denomination of baptism: Religion or denomination of baptism: Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding: Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding:	If yes, date of baptism:	If yes, date of baptism:	
Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding: Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding: Current religion or denomination: Current religion or denomination: Current parish or congregation: Current parish or congregation: City, State: City, State: Are you and the OP in regular contact? Name of your Advocate: Will the OP participate in this case? Advocate's parish: Why? Have you ever petitioned a Church Tribunal for ar annulment or dissolution of this or other marriages? City, State If yes, name of Tribunal:	City, State:	City, State:	
Current religion or denomination: Current religion or denomination: Current parish or congregation: Current parish or congregation: City, State: City, State: Are you and the OP in regular contact? Name of your Advocate: Will the OP participate in this case? Advocate's parish: Why? Have you ever petitioned a Church Tribunal for ar annulment or dissolution of this or other marriages? City, State If yes, name of Tribunal:	Religion or denomination of baptism:	Religion or denomination of baptism:	
Current parish or congregation:	Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding:	Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding:	
City, State:	Current religion or denomination:	Current religion or denomination:	
Are you and the OP in regular contact? Name of your Advocate: Will the OP participate in this case? Advocate's parish: Why?	Current parish or congregation:	Current parish or congregation:	
Will the OP participate in this case? Advocate's parish: Why?	 City, State:	City, State:	
Why?	Are you and the OP in regular contact?	Name of your Advocate:	
Are you enrolled in RCIA? Have you ever petitioned a Church Tribunal for an annulment or dissolution of this or other marriages? City, State If yes, name of Tribunal:	Will the OP participate in this case?	Advocate's parish:	
Are you enrolled in RCIA? Have you ever petitioned a Church Tribunal for an annulment or dissolution of this or other marriages? City, State If yes, name of Tribunal:	Why?		
City, State If yes, name of Tribunal:	Are you enrolled in RCIA?	Have you ever petitioned a Church Tribunal for ar	
If yes, name of Tribunal:	If yes, in which parish?	annulment or dissolution of this or other marriages?	
	City, State	If ves, name of Tribunal:	
		-	

PETITIONER'S GENERAL INFORMATION

UNLOCATABLE OTHER PARTY

The address of the OP is extremely important. If you are unable to provide a valid address for the OP, you need to make all the efforts suggested below that are applicable to your case. Otherwise, the Petition will be returned to you for completion.

Explain why it is impossible for you to provide a valid address for the OP:

Indicate which efforts you have made to locate the OP, and attach the documentation to prove that you tried them.

If you are unable to use any of these search options, you must explain why.

You must also explain why your efforts were unsuccessful.

YES	N/A	
		Known aliases, maiden, or former names;
		Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.);
		Communication through our children;
		Communication through mutual friends and relatives;
		Communication through former neighbors, co-workers, etc.;
		Mailing a letter to the last known address;
		Telephone Book or City Directory (available at Public Libraries);
		Telephone Directory Assistance;
		Last known telephone number;
		Professional or trade organizations;
		OP's divorce attorney;
		Social Security Records and Credit Records;
		Motor Vehicle Records;
		Military records: U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard locator services;
		Last known employment;
		Attorneys, investigators or other professionals;
		Paid on-line search engines, like <u>www.ussearch.com</u> or <u>www.whitepages.com</u> .

If you need further information on how to locate the OP, please contact the Metropolitan Tribunal.

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION

In this process, it is going to be necessary to prove the lack of baptism of both or at least one party to the marriage. Accordingly, please fill in the required information concerning you, the OP, or both.

WHERE YOU HAVE LIVED

If your lack of baptism needs to be proven in this process, list all the places where you lived for six months or more until the age of 7. Indicate the approximate dates.

Name of city, town, or village	From	Until
		<u> </u>

CHURCHES ATTENDED

If your lack of baptism needs to be proven in this process, list all the churches that you attended regularly until the age of 7

Address

Name

_____ <u>___</u>

WHERE THE OTHER PARTY HAS LIVED

If the OP's lack of baptism needs to be proven in this process, list all the places where the OP lived for six months or more until the age of 7. Indicate the approximate dates.

Name of city, town, or village	From	Until

CHURCHES ATTENDED

If the OP's lack of baptism needs to be proven in this process, list all the churches that the OP attended regularly until the age of 7.

Name

Address

WEDDING

NOTE: For Catholics, "wedding" means the wedding in the Catholic Church, not the civil ceremony.	□ No
Petitioner's age at the time of the wedding:	lf it wa
OP's age at the time of the wedding:	
Date of the wedding:	Who a
Officiant: 🗆 Catholic priest or deacon	Date of
\Box Other religious minister	Court:
Civil official	Count
Other (explain)	
Name of officiant:	
Church or place of marriage:	
Street address:	CHILI
City, State:	Dates
Zip code:	with th
For Catholics: Did you and the OP celebrate a civil	Nam
wedding before the one in the Catholic Church?	
If yes, name of officiant:	
Venue:	
City, State:	
Date:	
Why did you marry afterward in the Catholic Church? (this	Are th
is also called sometimes a <i>blessing</i> or <i>convalidation</i>)	lf not,
	Who r
	Are t
	visitat
SEPARATION	
Number of separations during the marriage:	If there
Date of the first separation:	
Date of final separation:	Is the
Length of married life until final separation:	Courts
What was the cause for the final separation?	If there
	

If there is no hope for reconciliation with the OP, why?

CIVIL DIVORCE

□ Civil Divorce or □ Civil Annulment?

 \Box No-fault or \Box For cause?

If it was for cause, please describe briefly:

Vho applied for the divorce?
Date of divorce or annulment:
Court:
County, State:

CHILDREN

Dates of birth (or adoption) of all the children that you had with the OP:

Name	Date of birth or adoption

Are these children baptized Catholic?

f not, why? _____

Who now has legal custody of the children?

Are there current problems or disputes concerning visitation, custody, or support payments?

If there are current problems or disputes, describe briefly:

Is there any ongoing or pending litigation in the civil Courts between you and the OP? _____

If there are ongoing or pending litigations, describe briefly:

OTHER MARRIAGES

If either you or the OP has had more than one marriage, please list them all in chronological order. Please include all marriages, even those that were not celebrated in religious ceremonies.

Attach to this Petition all the documentation relative to each of these marriages: marriage certificate, civil divorce decree, and ecclesiastical decree of dissolution or nullity.

If either you or the OP has more than three marriages, please list them on a separate sheet of paper, including all the information requested below for each of the marriages.

OTHER PARTY

PETITIONER

1) Name of spouse:	1) Name of spouse:
Date:	Date:
Place:	Place:
Was this the first marriage for the other spouse?	Was this the first marriage for the other spouse?
Has this spouse passed away?	Has this spouse passed away?
If so, when?	If so, when?
Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity	Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity
or dissolution of this marriage?	or dissolution of this marriage?
If yes, name of Tribunal:	If yes, name of Tribunal:
Case number and date:	Case number and date:
2) Name of spouse:	2) Name of spouse:
Date:	Date:
Place:	Place:
Was this the first marriage for the other spouse?	Was this the first marriage for the other spouse?
Has this spouse passed away?	Has this spouse passed away?
If so, when?	If so, when?
Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity	Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity
or dissolution of this marriage?	or dissolution of this marriage?
If yes, name of Tribunal:	If yes, name of Tribunal:
Case number and date:	Case number and date:
3) Name of spouse:	3) Name of spouse:
Date:	Date:
Place:	Place:
Was this the first marriage for the other spouse?	Was this the first marriage for the other spouse?
Has this spouse passed away?	Has this spouse passed away?
If so, when?	If so, when?
Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity	Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity
or dissolution of this marriage?	or dissolution of this marriage?
If yes, name of Tribunal:	If yes, name of Tribunal:
Case number and date:	Case number and date:

WITNESSES

It is essential to demonstrate the lack of baptism of the OP, the Petitioner, or both. Depending on your case, you have to propose witnesses for the OP, the Petitioner, or for both.

Please name at least two witnesses who are able and willing to provide testimony about the lack of baptism.

The preferred witnesses are the parents of the unbaptized person. Other competent witnesses may be older siblings, uncles, aunts or older cousins, as long as they can testify to the absence of baptism.

Before submitting their names, personally contact each witness and make sure that they are willing to testify.

FOR THE PETITIONER FOR THE OTHER PARTY Witness 1 Witness 1 Language preferred: English Español Tiếng Việt Language preferred: English Español Tiếng Việt Title and name: _____ Title and name: Street address: _____ Street address: ____ City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: Phone: _____ Phone: Email: Email: Relationship to you: _____ Relationship to you: Relationship to the OP: _____ Relationship to the OP: _____ Did this person agree to be a witness? Did this person agree to be a witness? Witness 2 Witness 2 Language preferred: English Español Tiếng Viêt Language preferred: English Español Tiếng Việt Title and name: Title and name: _____ Street address: ____ Street address: City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Phone: Phone: Email: Email: Relationship to you: _____ Relationship to you: _____ Relationship to the OP: _____ Relationship to the OP:

Did this person agree to be a witness? _____

Witness 3

Language preferred: 🗆 English 🗆 Español 🗆 Tiếng Việt	Lar
Title and name:	Titl
Street address:	Str
City, State, Zip:	City
Phone:	Pho
Email:	Em
Relationship to you:	Rel
Relationship to the OP:	Rel
Did this person agree to be a witness?	Did

Witness 3

Did this person agree to be a witness?

INTENDED MARRIAGE

For the purpose of this questionnaire, the Intended Spouse is the person that you want to marry in the Catholic Church.

First name of Intended Spouse:	Was your Intended	Spouse at fault in provoking your
Middle name:	separation from the	OP?
Current last name:	Explain briefly why:	
Maiden name:		
Street address:		
City, State:	•	marry your Intended Spouse in the
Zip code:	Catholic Church, will	it cause any scandal?
Religion:	Explain briefly why:	
Date of Birth:		
Has your Intended Spouse ever been baptized?	Are you civilly marrie	ed to your Intended Spouse?
Date of baptism:	If so, date of the cele	ebration:
Church or denomination of baptism:		
	Name of officiant:	
City, State:	Church or place of c	elebration:
Current religion or denomination:	<u> </u>	
	Street address:	
Current parish or congregation:		
	Zip code:	
City, State: If not baptized, why?	 Dates of birth (or adoption) of all the children that with the Intended Spouse: 	
· · ·	Date of birth	or adoption
Is your Intended Spouse enrolled in RCIA?	Name	Date of birth or adoption
If so, in which parish?		
City, State		
Is your Intended Spouse free to marry in the Catholic		
Church?		
If no, explain briefly:		
	Are these children ba	aptized Catholic?
	If not, why?	
When did the Petitioner and the Intended Spouse get to		
know each other?		

RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

With your Petition, you need to submit a recommendation letter from your pastor, on the parish's letterhead, with the pastor's signature and seal, including the following information:

- 1. The pastor's relationship with the Petitioner and the Intended Spouse
- 2. The baptismal status of the Petitioner and the Intended Spouse
- 3. The pastor's view on the religious practice and involvement with the Parish of the Petitioner and the Intended Spouse
- 4. The reasons in favor of the concession of the dissolution
- 5. If the Petitioner is allowed to marry the Intended Spouse, will there be any scandal or unusual comment?
- 6. Any further remarks, that the Pastor deems appropriate

PROMISES

This form needs to be included with the application if the Petitioner or the Intended Spouse are not Catholic and do not intend to become Catholic. The form has to be signed in the presence of the Pastor.

PROMISES OF THE CATHOLIC PARTY

In the presence of the undersigned priest, I, hereby promise to practice my faith, and to fulfill to the best of my ability my obligation to have all children who may be born into our marriage baptized in the Catholic Church and carefully raised in the knowledge and practice of the Catholic faith.

Signature of the Catholic Party

PROMISES OF THE NON-CATHOLIC PARTY

In the presence of the undersigned priest, I, _____

hereby promise that I shall permit my spouse to practice the Catholic religion and to fulfill the solemn promise that all the children of our marriage will be baptized and raised only in the Catholic faith.

Signature of the non-Catholic Party

CERTIFICATION

I, , the undersigned priest, pastor of the parish of

, of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, hereby certify that both parties have freely made the above promises in my presence.

Signed at (city, state) ______, on _____.

[Seal of the parish]

Signature of the Pastor

PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE IN FAVOREM FIDEI

I, _____, Petitioner herein, hereby humbly ask that the Holy Father grants the dissolution in favorem fidei of my marriage with , OP herein.

The marriage took place at (City, State) ______ on (date) _____.

At the time of said marriage, I was \Box not baptized \Box baptized.

The OP was \Box not baptized \Box baptized.

Currently, I am a \Box Catholic \Box Catechumen \Box non-Catholic Christian \Box non-Christian.

It is my desire to marry _____, my Intended Spouse, in the Catholic Church.

My Intended Spouse is a
Catholic
Catechumen
non-Catholic Christian
non-Christian.

The reasons for my petition are: (mark as appropriate)

□ The estrangement from my former spouse with no prospect for reconciliation;

 \Box My peace of conscience and desire to live a moral life;

\Box My desire to be free to marry	a Catholic in the future;
--------------------------------------	---------------------------

 \Box My desire to validate my present civil marriage to a Catholic;

□ My desire to maintain a Catholic home and raise my children Catholic;

 \Box The conversion of my civil spouse who desires to embrace the faith.

Signed at (city, state) ______ on (date) _____.

Signature of the Petitioner