

**Diocese of Lubbock
Matrimonial Tribunal**

ABSENCE OF CANONICAL FORM PETITION

According to the canon law of the Catholic Church, all Catholics are expected to marry within the Catholic Church. If a Catholic party enters a marriage with another party (Catholic or non-Catholic) without the proper prescribed liturgical formula or without a dispensation (permission) to marry in a non-Catholic church the marriage is most likely invalid.

This worksheet is designed to help people who are in such a situation. By completing this worksheet and submitting the required documentation this process can be greatly expedited.

Section One

1. I, _____, a _____, married _____,
(Name) (Religion) (Name)
a _____, on _____, at _____
(Religion) (Date) (Location, Town, State)
in the presence of ___ a minister: ___ a rabbi: ___ a civil official; or ___ no official marriage but by
common law, starting in _____.

2. Current Address of the Petitioner

(Street) (Town) (State) (Zip Code)

Section Two

The following questions must be answered with a **YES** in order to proceed with a declaration of nullity due to lack of form.

3. Do you have a recent copy of the Catholic party's baptismal certificate (issued within the last six months with all notations and the parish seal)? Yes No
4. Do you have a copy of the marriage license? Yes No
5. Does the license indicate that the wedding was conducted by any one of the following:
- a. Protestant minister, or Yes No
 - b. Civil magistrate (i.e., Justice of the Peace), or
 - c. A non-Christian official
6. Do you have a copy of the divorce decree? Yes No

7. Are any legal obligations and/or alimony being met? (If the answer is no, this process cannot continue according to canon 1071, §1, 3 °) Yes No

Section Three

The following questions must receive **NO** in order to continue.

8. Does the marriage license indicate that an Orthodox priest conducted the wedding? Yes No
9. Does the marriage license indicate that a Catholic priest or deacon conducted the wedding? Yes No
10. For marriages that took place **after** November 27, 1983: Did the Catholic party leave the Church by a formal act (e.g., get re-baptized in another denomination or publicly deny the Faith) before he or she got married? Yes No
11. Is there any indication on the baptismal certificate, or any other documents or from the Catholic party that a dispensation from canonical form had been granted? Yes No
12. Is there any indication under the "notations" section of the baptismal certificate that a convalidation or sanatio was performed on this marriage? Yes No
13. Was the marriage conducted in danger of death, or did it proceed without a priest or deacon simply because one would not have been available for at least a month? Yes No

Section Four

Please provide the following:

- 1) baptismal certificate issued within the past six months from the parish of baptism of the Catholic party with all notations and the parish seal (no fax copies or Xerox copies)
- 2) copy of the civil marriage license
- 3) copy of the divorce decree
- 4) check for \$35

Do you affirm that, to the best of your knowledge, the above answers are true?

Date

Petitioner

Parish

Priest, Deacon or Lay Minister