

Matrimonial Tribunal  
Diocese of Lubbock

Case Title and Protocol No.:

#### PETITIONER'S QUESTIONNAIRE—FORMAL PROCESS

1. Do you now affirm that you will answer the questions here proposed, telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?
2. Is there a chance of reconciliation between you and your former spouse?
3. Is there any court action in progress -- or do you foresee any -- in regard to your former marriage or any children thereof?

Please be answer each question as completely and forthrightly as you can. Be advised that your former spouse has the right, under the 1983 Code of Canon Law, to review your testimony. Likewise, you have the right to review the testimony of your former spouse.

#### BACKGROUND OF EACH PARTY

4. Please describe your family background.
  - a. Describe your home environment during your childhood. What were your parents and siblings like? How did you relate to your family?
  - b. How did your family view religion?
  - c. How did you relate to other people?
  - d. Did you seriously date other people prior to dating your former spouse? How many such relationships did you have and why did they break up?
  - e. Describe your work record.

- f. Did you have long-range goals?
  - g. Please describe any problems you may have had with the following (gambling, money, alcohol, drugs, sex, etc).
5. Please describe the family background of your former spouse:
- a. Describe your former spouse's home environment during childhood. What were her/his parents and siblings like? How did he/she relate to family?
  - b. How did your former spouse's family view religion?
  - c. How did your former spouse relate to other people?
  - d. Did your former spouse seriously date other people prior to dating you? How many such relationships did he/she have? Why did they breakup?
  - e. Describe your former spouse's work record.
  - f. Did your former spouse have long-range goals?
  - g. Please describe any problems your former spouse may have had with the following: (gambling, money, alcohol, drugs, sex, etc.).

## COURTSHIP

- 6.a. Please tell when the two of you met (supply month/year).
- b. How did you meet?
- c. What initially attracted you to each other?
- d. How frequently did you date?
- e. Describe the dating period. Was it tranquil and happy or was it marked by quarrels, uncertainty? Explain
- f. Did the relationship ever end during the courtship? (Provide specific date/s in month/years.)  
When did you reconcile? (Provide specific date/s in months/years.)
- g. Why did you reconcile?
- h. What was your attitude and that of your former spouse concerning sexual involvement during the courtship?
- i. Did you cohabit at any time during the courtship? If so, why? Provide specific dates in months/years.
- j. In all, how long did you date him/her before you married? (Provide specific numbers of years and months.)

## DECISION TO MARRY

- 7.a. How did the decision to marry come about?
  
- b. Was there a formal engagement period?
  
- c. Who proposed?
  
- d. Did either of you have any hesitations about getting married? If so, please explain.
  
- e. How long were you engaged before the wedding? Provide months/years.
  
- f. What were the attitudes of each of you about marriage being permanent?
  
- g. Did either of you, before the marriage, look upon divorce as an alternative if the marriage proved to be unhappy? If so, please comment.
  
- h. What were the thoughts of each of you about children? What were your plans about having children in the marriage?
  
- i. Did either of you make a decision to exclude or delay children? If so, what practical steps did you and your spouse take to delay/exclude children?
  
- j. What were the thoughts of each of you about rearing and the religious education of the children?

k. What were the attitudes of each of you about fidelity in marriage? Was either party a flirt? If so, explain.

8. How did family members of each of you react when they were told about the decision to marry?

9. Was there any unusual pressure to marry?

10. Was there any formal premarital counseling or preparation with a priest, minister, rabbi or parson? If so, what do you recall about the counseling or preparation?

11. Were there any prenuptial agreements made, either written or otherwise understood? If so, describe.

#### WEDDING AND HONEYMOON

12. Why did you get married when and where you did?

13. Did anything unusual occur at the time of the marriage ceremony? If so, please explain.

14. What were your feelings about the marriage immediately prior to or during the ceremony?

15. Do you believe that your former spouse, at the time of the wedding, intended a permanent, faithful, spouse-and-child-oriented marriage? If not, why do you so answer? Examples, please.

16.a. Was there a honeymoon? If not, why not?

b. Did any problem arise during it?

c. Were there marital relations during the honeymoon? If not, why not?

### MARRIED LIFE

17. Where did you live together as husband and wife?

18. Were both parties happy in the marriage? If not, explain fully with details regarding the nature of the problems and when they started.

19. Describe your ability to communicate; e.g., how did each of you communicate your differences, problems and conflicts?

20. What were the major conflicts in the marriage-when did they arise? What caused them? How did each of you respond? How would you describe the arguments between you and your former spouse?

21. Did you enjoy shared interests?

22. What was the attitude of each of you about responsibilities at work and at home?

23. Describe the sexual relationship during the marriage itself and the sensitivity of each to the other's needs.
  
24. Was there any physical, sexual, or emotional mistreatment of either spouse toward the other? If so, describe.
  
25. Were children born during the marriage? If so, indicate son/daughter and provide month/day/year of birth for each.
  
26. How did each of you relate to your children?
  
27. Explain how money was handled.
  
28. Was there an abuse of alcohol or any other drug (illegal, prescription, over-the-counter, etc)? Describe.
  
29. Was there gambling? Describe.
  
30. Was there any other addiction? Describe.
  
31. Were any of the problems in the marriage of a psychological nature? If so, explain.
  
32. Was counseling sought? Who was the counselor? What was the outcome of counseling?

33. In brief, why do you think the marriage broke up? Be explicit.

#### SEPARATION(S)/DIVORCE

34.a. How many separations were there before the last one?

b. When did each separation occur? Please give specific dates including months/years.

c. What and who caused each separation?

d. Why did you go back together?

e. How much effort did each of you make toward a lasting reconciliation?

f. What and who caused the final separation? When did it occur? Please give specific month/year.

g. Who filed for the divorce?

35. If children were born of the marriage:

a. Who has custody?

b. Who supports them?

36.a. Are both you and your former spouse meeting all civil/moral obligations to each other and any children?

b. Are the best interests of the children being met in regards to their physical, cultural, moral, and religious upbringing? If not, why not?

37. What is your estimate now of the character and personality of your former spouse?

38. Today, does your former spouse tend to be a truthful person? Why do you so answer?

39. Have you tried to enlist the cooperation of your former spouse in this Tribunal process? What was her/his reaction? Will he/she be willing, when contracted by the Tribunal, to participate?

40. Have you approached your witnesses to ask them for their cooperation in this process?

41. Do you solemnly affirm that you have told the whole truth as you know it?

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

(Seal) \_\_\_\_\_  
Priest, Deacon, or Lay Minister

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Please include your own observations. They will be helpful in processing this case for your client.