

Statement of the Petitioner

I, _____, make the following statement of understanding concerning my petition for Declaration of Invalidity of my marriage to _____.

By my signature below, I declare that I have read this statement and understand:

- There is no guarantee that the final decision of the Tribunal will be affirmative, i.e., that the marriage will be declared invalid.
- No guarantee can be given to me about the length of time it will take to receive a final decision.
- The decision of the Tribunal depends entirely on the merits of the case based on the evidence presented, and the laws of the Catholic Church regarding the invalidity of marriage.
- I must not set a date for any future marriage in the Catholic Church unless and until the Tribunal gives a final Declaration of Invalidity.
- Even if a Declaration of Invalidity is given, the Tribunal may require that some professional counseling take place before a marriage in the Catholic Church.
- This is an exclusively religious matter and has no civil effects in the United States.
- I will not talk to witnesses about what they should say in this case, or in any other way influence their testimony.
- A copy of the one page petition will be sent to my former spouse if my case is accepted.
- I and my former spouse may choose to review the acts of the case when notified by the Tribunal. The judge may decree that some testimony or proofs are not to be shown to the parties in order to avoid a most grave danger.
- The burden of the proof of the invalidity of my marriage falls to me. I am obliged to supply the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Hartford with documents, testimony, witnesses and any information that is in support of my case.
- I understand that I may request original documents [certificates, divorce decrees, etc.] be returned to me. I realize that all other materials become property of the Tribunal once my case is submitted.
- I realize I have the responsibility to keep a copy of all the materials that pertain to my case in the event anything is lost in the mail or in any other way.
- I am obliged to refrain from unnecessary calls to the Tribunal Office inquiring about the status of my case. I will make contact with my parish priest or advocate as needed.
- For reason of confidentiality, no information about my case will be given to third parties [present spouse, fiancée, parents, family members, etc.] and they should not contact the Tribunal. No substantial information will be given to anyone on the telephone.
- I am aware of the fee schedule connected with my Petition for a Decree of Invalidity, and I promise to abide by it.
- I agree to cooperate fully with the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Hartford and be bound by the policies of the same.

Signature of Petitioner _____ Date _____