

TRIBUNAL

Diocese of Bridgeport



Case Name:

Case No.:

Your Name:

Please Complete and Return By:

WITNESS
QUESTIONNAIRE

Tribunal of the Diocese of Bridgeport

The Catholic Center

238 Jewett Avenue

Bridgeport, CT 06606

203 - 416 - 1424

www.dob-tribunal.com

tribunal@diobpt.org

Dear Witness,

Thank you for your testifying in the above-referenced case. One of the parties in the trial requested you as a witness in his or her Marriage Nullity Process in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Bridgeport. They were asked to contact you prior to submitting your name, hence this letter should not be a surprise to you. Your participation in the process will be limited to written statements in the form below. On a very rare occasion, a judge may call you for a brief clarification of your statements.

This questionnaire is similar to the one given to the parties in this case, and will serve to corroborate their own descriptions of their marriage. **Please simply answer the questions to the best of your knowledge without consulting either of the parties or other persons.** For example, if the question involves what you would know of the time the parties were dating, and you did not know the parties then, please just indicate "I did not know them at that time." Please do not take sides and answer the questions objectively, truthfully, and accurately.

Answer the questions concisely, but as completely as you can, and give examples to illustrate your answers. Please also explain how and when you came to know the information, e.g., one of the parties told you during the courtship, you saw or heard the matter yourself, etc. The more facts you are able to provide, the greater assistance you are to the individuals and the Tribunal.

If you need more space, please add additional paper and number the answers accordingly.

Since our Diocese of Bridgeport is blessed with the Faithful of various national backgrounds, using the English language, writing skills, or other situations might become an obstacle for you. In a such a situation, kindly indicate this to the Tribunal (203-416-1424; tribunal@diobpt.org) so we can make special arrangements for you.

Since the forms are part of the official evidence in a trial, they are required to be typed and notarized (see final page). Therefore, you are welcome to download this document from our website at: www.dob-tribunal.com (see: "For Clergy"). Please indicate the Case Name and Case Number as above. Otherwise, if you are unable to type or to have someone type for you, please PRINT very clearly with a blue or black pen only (we regret that we cannot guarantee your testimony will be used if it is not typed). Thank you for your assistance!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend Arthur Mollenhauer, J.C.L.
Judicial Vicar

+The following testimony you are about to give is under the sanctity of an oath+

PART A ABOUT YOU:

Your Name:

Your Address:

Telephone:

Home:

Cell:

Work:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Occupation
(Profession):

Your Religion:

If registered with a parish, please indicate the parish name and place:

Your relationship to the husband and wife (e.g., wife's mother, friend, neighbor):

Did you know the couple before, during, and or after the marriage?

BEFORE:

YES:

NO:

DURING:

YES:

NO:

AFTER:

YES:

NO:

Has anyone coached you in any way regarding the testimony you are about to give?

YES:

NO:

This testimony is to aid the examination of the above-referenced matrimonial case according to the laws of the Catholic Church (canon law) and has no civil effects. Do you clearly understand these facts?

How long and how well do you know one or both of the parties to this marriage?

Would you describe one or both of them as sincere and truthful?

PETITIONER:

YES:

NO:

RESPONDENT:

YES:

NO:

11. Did either spouse have any problems with gambling, drinking, or drug use before or during the courtship? Were there any instances of violence? Did either spouse have any problems with handling money? Were there any arrests or imprisonment?

12. Did either spouse have complaints about the other during the courtship? If so, how did they deal with these difficulties?

13. Did either spouse suffer from any psychological or emotional problems before or during the courtship? If so, please describe (example: history of depression, anxiety, alcoholism, drug addiction, eating disorder, insomnia, hospitalization, medication, etc.); indicate how/when you came to know of this.

14. Did anyone object to the marriage or have any reservations about its success (example: family member, friend, priest/minister/rabbi, etc.)? Did the parties talk with you about their feelings before or after the marriage?

PART D MARRIED LIFE

*When you answer the questions, please try to describe the circumstances
at the **beginning, middle and final stage of the marriage.***

15. How did the spouses share feelings and ideas? Was there mutual respect for each other's feelings and opinions? Was decision-making healthy in the marriage? When there were arguments, how were they resolved?
16. How was love and affection expressed between the spouses? Did it seem that there was genuine faithfulness and intimacy in this marriage?

17. Did either spouse or both make a decision not to have children? Was this decision made before or during the marriage? Why were children not wanted? To the best of your knowledge, what means were used to prevent children, and were those means always used? If no children were born to the marriage, why not? Were there any abortions?

18. Please discuss how the marriage was or was not a partnership by reflecting upon the following areas: the raising of children; carrying responsibilities individually and as a couple (job and home); sharing common interests that promote a healthy growth in the relationship; a mutual respect for each other's families (in-laws) and friends, etc. Did they have a healthy partnership in their marriage?

19. Please discuss what may have caused division or a breakdown in their marriage. Areas that could possibly be addressed are: abuse (physical, sexual, emotional), infidelity, use of pornography, money issues, conflicting careers, alcohol or drug abuse, gambling, arrests or imprisonment, etc.

20. Other areas that may be of importance for you to share are: any temporary separations, professional counseling (individual or as a couple, whether both cooperated in counseling, how long the counseling lasted and whether there was any success), details of the final separation, etc. Also please discuss whether either spouse suffered from any psychological or emotional problems. Please include details such as the history of the illness, hospitalization, medication, etc.

21. Is there anything else you would like to add?

PART E YOUR SIGNATURE

NAME of person giving testimony: (PRINT)

Signature of person giving testimony: _____



Date _____ Place _____

MANDATORY Authentication: (PRINT NAME: _____, sign below)

Signature of a Priest, Deacon, Ecclesiastical or Notary Public

Date



Please sign on the line "Signature of person giving testimony." **Your signature MUST be witnessed by a Catholic Priest, Deacon, Ecclesiastical Notary or Notary Public.** All depositions given by the Petitioner and/or Respondent, as well as the testimony of their witnesses, can be seen by the Petitioner, Respondent, and the Tribunal officials. This right is considered "the right to defense" in case one would like to give additional testimony or a rebuttal. If, because of the sensitivity of the information given, the person would like the information confidential, he/she can give reasons in writing why he/she wishes this information to be kept confidential. The final decision in this matter will remain with the presiding Judge (Canon 1598). **YOUR TESTIMONY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE OF A CATHOLIC PRIEST OR DEACON, OR A NOTARY PUBLIC OR AN ECCLESIASTICAL NOTARY.**

THE ACTS OF THIS ECCLESIASTICAL PROCESS ARE A RELIGIOUS MATTER AND HAVE NO EFFECTS IN CIVIL LAW.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
Please return the form to:

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The Catholic Center
238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606