



Diocese of Colorado Springs

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PAULINE PRIVILEGE APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

This is the application for the **Pauline Privilege**. The Pauline Privilege is the dissolution of a presumed valid natural but non-sacramental bond in favor of a sacramental marriage, or to preserve the faith of the Catholic party in a non-sacramental marriage. It is applicable in cases in which both of the Parties to the marriage in question were **unbaptized** at the time of the marriage.

Please answer all the questions as completely as possible. Once you answer the questionnaire, please take it to your parish priest or deacon to have it reviewed. Or, if you have any questions before you start, please contact your parish priest or deacon for guidance.

In this questionnaire, you are the "**Petitioner**," and the other spouse to the marriage that you are asking to be dissolved is the "**Respondent**." The person that you intend to marry in the Catholic Church is the "**Intended Spouse**."

The mailing address of the Respondent is extremely important. Making sure that the address is correct will avoid delays. Without the cooperation of the Respondent, it is very difficult to instruct a Pauline Privilege case. *If the Respondent is truly impossible to locate, please attach a record of your attempts at locating him/her.*

NEEDED DOCUMENTS

Please make sure to submit **all the required documents**. The documents must be originals or copies authenticated by a notary public or by an ecclesiastical notary.

Baptismal certificates must be recent, issued within the last 6 months.

NO incomplete application will be processed.

Please keep a copy of any documents you submit to the Tribunal; in case they are lost in the mail.

Necessary Documents:

For the **Petitioner**, please enclose the following documents:

- a) if baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)
- b) if not baptized, a list of all the cities (and approximate dates) where he/she has lived up to the age of 14 years old

For the **Respondent**, please enclose the following documents:

- a) if baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)
- b) if not baptized, a list of all the cities (and approximate dates) where he/she has lived during his/her life

For the **marriage to be dissolved**, please enclose the following documents:

- a) a certified civil marriage license
- b) the complete civil divorce decree

For the **Intended Spouse**, please enclose the following documents:

- a) if baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)
- b) if previously married: a certified civil marriage license, complete civil divorce decree, Catholic declaration of nullity, and/or death certificate if applicable

PETITIONER'S GENERAL INFORMATION

Title: _____

First name: _____

Middle name: _____

Current last name: _____

Maiden name: _____

Gender: Male Female

Street address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip code: _____

Cell phone: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of birth: _____

Place of birth: _____

Have you ever been baptized? _____

Were you baptized at the time of the wedding? _____

Church or denomination of baptism:

City, State: _____

Date of baptism: _____

Religion or denomination at the time of the wedding:

Current religion or denomination:

Current parish or congregation:

City, State: _____

Are you enrolled in RCIA? _____

If yes, in which parish? _____

City, State _____

Have you ever petitioned for a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage before other Church Tribunals? _____

If yes, name of Tribunal: _____

Case number and date: _____

RESPONDENT'S GENERAL INFORMATION

Title: _____

First name: _____

Middle name: _____

Current last name: _____

Maiden name: _____

Gender: Male Female

Street address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip code: _____

Cell phone: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of birth: _____

Place of birth: _____

Has the Respondent ever been baptized? _____

Was he or she baptized at the time of the wedding? _____

Religion at the time of the wedding:

Current religion: _____

Are you and the Respondent in regular contact? _____

Will the Respondent participate in this case? _____

CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP

When did you meet the Respondent? _____

How old were you when you met? Petitioner's age: _____ Respondent's age: _____

Date when courtship began: _____

Length of courtship prior to engagement: _____

Date of engagement: _____

Length of engagement prior to marriage: _____

Date of marriage: _____

Church or place of marriage: _____

Address of church or place of marriage: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Minister or officiant of marriage: _____

Denomination (if applicable): _____

If a civil marriage, was it ever "blessed" / "validated" in the Catholic Church? _____

If so, where: _____

Length of marriage prior to divorce: _____

Date of separation: _____

Date of divorce: _____

County, state of divorce: _____

Number of children born of this union: _____

OTHER MARRIAGES

If either you or the Respondent has had more than one marriage, either civil or religious, please list them all in chronological order.

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 Respondent has more than two marriages, please list them on a separate sheet of paper, including all the information requested below for each of the marriages.

PETITIONER

1) Name of spouse: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? _____

Has this spouse passed away? _____

If so, when? _____

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? _____

If yes, name of Tribunal: _____

Case number and date: _____

2) Name of spouse: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? _____

Has this spouse passed away? _____

If so, when? _____

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? _____

If yes, name of Tribunal: _____

Case number and date: _____

RESPONDENT

1) Name of spouse: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? _____

Has this spouse passed away? _____

If so, when? _____

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? _____

If yes, name of Tribunal: _____

Case number and date: _____

2) Name of spouse: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Was this the first marriage for the other spouse? _____

Has this spouse passed away? _____

If so, when? _____

Has the Catholic Church granted a declaration of nullity or dissolution of this marriage? _____

If yes, name of Tribunal: _____

Case number and date: _____

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION

In order to prove the lack of baptism, it may be necessary to contact the churches where the parties have lived during their childhood. Therefore, please provide the following required information.

PLACES WHERE YOU HAVE LIVED

List all the places where you lived for six months or more until the age of 14. Indicate the approximate dates.

Name of city, town, or village	From	Until
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

CHURCHES ATTENDED

List all the churches that you attended regularly until the age of 14.

Name	Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

WHERE THE RESPONDENT HAS LIVED

List all the places where the Respondent lived for six months or more until the age of 14. Indicate the approximate dates.

Name of city, town, or village	From	Until
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

CHURCHES ATTENDED

List all the churches that the Respondent attended regularly until the age of 14.

Name	Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

WEDDING

Petitioner's age at the time of the wedding: _____

Respondent's age at the time of the wedding: _____

Date of the wedding: _____

Officiant: Religious minister
 Civil official
 Other (explain) _____

Name of officiant: _____

Place of marriage: _____

Street address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip code: _____

CHILDREN

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

Date of birth or adoption

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

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 Respondent? _____

If there are ongoing or pending litigations, describe briefly:

SEPARATION

Number of separations during the marriage: _____

Date of the first separation: _____

Date of final separation: _____

Length of married life until final separation: _____

What was the cause for the final separation?

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

CIVIL DIVORCE

Civil Divorce or Civil Annulment?
 No-fault or For cause?

If it was for cause, please describe briefly:

Who applied for the divorce? _____

Date of divorce or annulment: _____

Court: _____

County, State: _____

WITNESSES

It is essential to demonstrate the **lack of baptism** of both the **Petitioner and Respondent**.

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

The preferred witnesses are the parents of each party; **older siblings** who can testify to the lack of baptism, such as uncles, aunts, and cousins.

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

FOR THE PETITIONER

Witness 1

Title and name: _____
Street address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Relationship to the Respondent: _____
Did this person agree to be a witness? _____

Witness 2

Title and name: _____
Street address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Relationship to the Respondent: _____
Did this person agree to be a witness? _____

Witness 3

Title and name: _____
Street address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Relationship to the Respondent: _____
Did this person agree to be a witness? _____

FOR THE RESPONDENT

Witness 1

Title and name: _____
Street address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Relationship to the Respondent: _____
Did this person agree to be a witness? _____

Witness 2

Title and name: _____
Street address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Relationship to the Respondent: _____
Did this person agree to be a witness? _____

Witness 3

Title and name: _____
Street address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Relationship to you: _____
Relationship to the Respondent: _____
Did this person agree to be a witness? _____

INTENDED SPOUSE

The Intended Spouse is the person that you intend to marry in the Catholic Church.

The dissolution of the marriage by means of the Pauline Privilege only occurs with the celebration of the new marriage. Thus, it is necessary to determine the expected benefit for the faith of the Catholic Party in whose respect the favor is actually being granted, which requires that the intended spouse be questioned during the instruction of the case.

First name of Intended Spouse: _____

Middle name: _____

Current last name: _____

Maiden name: _____

Street address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip code: _____

Religion: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Has your Intended Spouse ever been baptized? _____

Date of baptism: _____

Church and Denomination of baptism:

City, State: _____

Current religion or denomination:

Current parish or congregation:

City, State: _____

If not baptized, why?

Do you and your Intended Spouse have any children? ___

If so, please include their baptismal certificates if they have been baptized.

Is your Intended Spouse enrolled in RCIA? _____

If so, in which parish? _____

City, State _____

Is your Intended Spouse free to marry in the Catholic Church? _____

If no, explain briefly:

Was your Intended Spouse at fault in provoking your separation from the Respondent? _____

Explain briefly why:

Are you civilly married to your Intended Spouse? _____

If so, date of the celebration: _____

Name of officiant: _____

Place of celebration: _____

Street address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip code: _____

RCIA CERTIFICATE

The Pauline Privilege can only be applied after the baptism of the Petitioner. However, if you are already enrolled in RCIA, you may submit this application. For this purpose, you will need a letter signed by your Pastor or by the person in charge of RCIA at your parish. That letter, printed in the letterhead of your parish, should certify that you are enrolled in RCIA, and give an approximate date for when you are supposed to be baptized.

Agreement of understanding

I, the undersigned petitioner, understand the following points with regard to my petition for a decree of invalidity.

1. I understand that this is a legal process of the Catholic Church specifically designed to clarify my canonical state in the Church. As such, it is not specifically intended to provide spiritual or emotional healing.

2. I understand that a rescript authorizing the use of the Pauline Privilege is a favor granted by the local Ordinary and is in no way a right which is owed to me or to anyone else. As such, I request that the local Ordinary and his delegate(s) assist in the instruction of this case.

3. I understand that anything submitted to the tribunal is strictly confidential and will not be share with anyone except the members of the tribunal, my Procurator/Advocate, and my divorced spouse.

4. I attest that there is no possibility of restoring the partnership of the conjugal life of the marriage I am requesting to be dissolved. Furthermore, I attest that I was not the exclusive or prevailing culpable cause of the breakup of the conjugal common life, nor did my intended spouse by his/her own fault provoke the separation of spouses.

5. I understand that my divorced spouse will be contacted regarding this process.

6. I understand that no assurance can be given of an affirmative decision.

7. I understand that no assurance can be given of a definite time for the completion of this process.

8. I understand that **absolutely no arrangements can be made for a future Catholic marriage or convalidation** of a present civil union unless and until I have received a rescript authorizing the use of the Pauline Privilege.

9. If applicable to my personal situation, I understand that if I am, or my present spouse is, enrolled in the RCIA program, we cannot be welcomed into the Church until a decree of nullity has been issued for this marriage and all other prior marriages for myself and my present spouse.

I attest that all information given in this petition is true insofar as I know.

Name of Petitioner: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Petitioner: _____

Name of Priest/Deacon: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Priest/Deacon: _____

Parish: _____

City: _____

Seal of Parish

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Definition of electronic case file transmission:

For the purposes of this agreement, electronic transmission refers to the communication of an original case file by electronic means, to include but not limited to computer-to-computer, electronic mail (e-mail), and/or video conferencing. The information in a case file that may be electronically transmitted includes but is not limited to original petition submitted by the Petitioner. Notification letters sent from the Tribunal to the Parties; questionnaires sent to the Parties, Procurator/Advocates, and Witnesses

Benefits of electronic case file transmission:

The electronic transmission of notification letters and 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.

Electronic case file transmission notice/disclaimer:

Please note that the use of electronic transmission will not expedite the processing time of Petitioner’s case. The average processing time for a case is between twelve and sixteen months.

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, 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 Bishop of Colorado Springs a corporation sole, 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, Respondent, Procurators/Advocates, and Defender of the Bond.

Agreement

Please initial: _____ 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.

Signature of Petitioner

Date

Printed name of Petitioner

Signature of Priest/Deacon

Date

Printed name of Priest/Deacon

Parish: _____ City: _____

Seal of Parish