

DIOCESE OF CAMDEN  
TRIBUNAL

CHECKLIST

**[NECESSARY documents to begin the process]**

1. **Baptismal certificate (2) - [RECENTLY dated within 6 months and with notations on back ]**
  - a) Petitioner
  - b) Respondent
2. **Marriage Certificate - Recent copy**
3. **Divorce Decree**
4. **Address of the Respondent**
5. **Witnesses [name and addresses and email] (more than 3)**
6. **Filing Fee [\$100.00] -- Check made payable: Diocese of Camden**
7. **If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call our office at [856] 583-6162, Monday – Friday 8:30 – 4pm.**

**DIOCESE OF CAMDEN – TRIBUNAL**  
**631 Market Street**  
**CAMDEN, NJ 08102-1103**

**FORMAL PETITION**

*IN ACCORDANCE WITH CANON LAW A COPY OF THIS FORMAL PETITION WILL BE SENT TO THE OTHER PARTY*

TO THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE TRIBUNAL:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned Petitioner,  
(Include Maiden Name if a Woman)

presently known as \_\_\_\_\_, and currently residing

in the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby request the Tribunal of the Diocese of Camden

to investigate my marriage to \_\_\_\_\_, the Respondent,  
(Include Maiden Name if a Woman)

currently residing in the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_, for a declaration of nullity. The marriage

took place on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Name & Denomination of Church)

in \_\_\_\_\_, Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(City and State)

I request the Tribunal declare this marriage null and void: [please check one of the following]

on any ground the Tribunal will judge to be appropriate, or

on the canonical ground of \_\_\_\_\_

I also request that the Tribunal of the Diocese of Camden appoint at the appropriate time a Procurator/Advocate to act on my behalf in both this Court and in the Court of Appeals.

In order to show there is no possibility of reconciliation in this marriage,  
**I ENCLOSE A COPY OF THE FINAL DECREE OF CIVIL DIVORCE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest, Deacon, Parish Advocate or Notary

**DIOCESE OF CAMDEN – TRIBUNAL**  
**PETITIONER'S AGREEMENT**

I, the undersigned Petitioner, \_\_\_\_\_ request  
(Maiden name, if woman)

a Declaration of Nullity in my marriage to \_\_\_\_\_ on the  
(Maiden name, if woman)

grounds which will be determined by the Tribunal of the Diocese of Camden according to the norms of Church Law.

Concerning the Respondent

I understand that according to Church Law, my request for a Declaration of Nullity cannot be considered unless my former spouse is contacted and offered the opportunity to testify. I agree to make every effort to locate my former spouse for the purpose of participating in the process. This effort includes, but is not limited to, previous known addresses, securing the social security number to assist in locating my former spouse should previous addresses prove useless, and performing an internet search for my former spouse in areas of probable residence.

Concerning the Witnesses

I understand that witnesses are necessary in order to authenticate my testimony and validate my basis for an annulment.

I agree to make every effort to present complete information regarding witnesses requested by the Tribunal and to elicit their cooperation when necessary. This includes their complete legal names, current addresses, telephone numbers and my relationship to them.

Concerning the Expenses

I understand that one does not pay for an annulment and that the fee requested is to assist in covering the cost of office procedures, most of which is covered by the Diocese.

I agree to pay a portion of the expenses incurred in my case. In addition to the Filing Fee of \$100.00, I agree to pay the remaining amount of \$700.00 in two stages:

\$ 400.00 will be required at the time of the Petitioner's interview.

\$ 300.00 will be required before the case is put on the docket for a decision. If there is a legit hardship, please describe the situation.

I understand that these non-refundable monies (\$800.00) are not payment for an annulment which, in accordance with Canon Law, will be judged solely on the basis of grounds and sufficient proof from witnesses, but for the expenses of the annulment process which I will incur regardless of the outcome of the case.

There is an additional fee if a psychological evaluation is needed. Should an appeal of the decision be made to the Roman Rota, there is an additional fee of \$850.00 which will be required from the party which is making the appeal to Rome, in addition to a \$200 preparation fee.

## Concerning Plans for a Future Marriage

I, the undersigned Petitioner, have initialed to show that I have read and understood the following points with regard to my petition for an annulment in my marriage:

(Please initial each item on the line provided.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. That no assurance can be given of an Affirmative decision (that is, one granting the annulment).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. That no assurance can be given as to a definite time for the Completion of the annulment process which averages **eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) months.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **THAT ABSOLUTELY NO ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR A FUTURE CATHOLIC MARRIAGE OR CONVALIDATION UNTIL AFTER A FINAL AND FAVORABLE DECISION IS RECEIVED FROM THE TRIBUNAL.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. That if I, or my present civil spouse, should be participating in a Parish RCIA program, no assurance can be given that my case will be decided favorably in time for Baptism/Reception into the Church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. That if the circumstances causing the invalidity of the marriage may so indicate, the Tribunal may require that I seek professional counseling or special Pre-Cana instruction before a marriage in the Catholic Church can be permitted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. **ALL EVIDENCE PROVIDED TO THE TRIBUNAL IS TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY, BUT, IS NOT SECRET, CONFSSIONAL, OR COVERED UNDER HIPAA REGULATIONS.**

I understand and accept that this is purely a Church matter which has no civil effects.

I understand and accept that all information gathered in my case is privileged and confidential and solely for the use of the Tribunal of the Catholic Church.

I understand that any opinion by another individual, other than an Official of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Camden, has no influence or bearing on the outcome of my case.

By my signature below, I, the Petitioner, hereby indicate that I have been fully informed, and that I clearly understand and fully agree to accept all of the above-mentioned conditions which have been specified in this Agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest, Deacon, Parish Advocate, or Notary

# DIOCESE OF CAMDEN – TRIBUNAL

## GENERAL INFORMATION

To The Tribunal of the Diocese of Camden: PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

I, \_\_\_\_\_, provide the following information regarding my previous marriage to \_\_\_\_\_.

*Petitioner must complete both columns.*

**Petitioner**

**Respondent**

\_\_\_\_\_ Current Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name of Woman \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **email address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Current Religion \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Church of Baptism (or Profession of Faith) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Note if not baptized or dedicated)

\_\_\_\_\_ City & State of Baptism (or Profession of Faith) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism (or Profession of Faith) \_\_\_\_\_  
(If not known, note if prior to, during, or after the marriage)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Currently in an R.C.I.A. program?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

**Petitioner**

**Respondent**

\_\_\_\_\_ Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Note if deceased)

\_\_\_\_\_ Father's Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Father's City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Father's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Father's Religion \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mother's First & Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Note if deceased)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mother's City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Religion \_\_\_\_\_

**REGARDING YOUR COURTSHIP, ENGAGEMENT AND MARRIAGE**

Date we met for the first time \_\_\_\_\_ Date we began dating exclusively \_\_\_\_\_

Date we became engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Date of marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Church (Place of Marriage) \_\_\_\_\_ Officiant \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Length of marriage (in years and/or months) \_\_\_\_\_

If this marriage in the Catholic Church was a convalidation or "blessing" of a previous civil or Non-Catholic marriage, please complete the following:

Date of this previous marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Place of this previous marriage \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_

Name of officiant (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of final separation \_\_\_\_\_ Date of final divorce decree \_\_\_\_\_

Place (County & State) of divorce decree \_\_\_\_\_

**REGARDING ANY PAST, PRESENT OR FUTURE MARRIAGES**

**Past Marriages before This Marriage [USE ADDITIONAL PAPER IF NECESSARY]**

Name of Former Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of Former Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_

How did this marriage end? Death? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Divorce? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Was this marriage annulled by Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese of Annulment \_\_\_\_\_ Case # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Marriage [requesting an annulment – SACRAMENTAL marriage]**

Name of Present Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of Present Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of this Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_

Was your Present Spouse previously married? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

How did this prior marriage end? Death? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Divorce? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Was this prior marriage annulled by Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese of Annulment \_\_\_\_\_ Case # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Is your Present Spouse presently in an RCIA Program?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Future Marriage [remarried]**

Name of Intended Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of Intended Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Was your Intended Spouse previously married? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

How did this prior marriage end? Death? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Divorce? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Was this prior marriage annulled by Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese of Annulment \_\_\_\_\_ Case # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Is your Intended Spouse presently in an RCIA Program?** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGARDING CHILDREN**

There were \_\_\_\_\_ children born to our marriage:  
NUMBER

NAME OF CHILD	DATE OF BIRTH	BAPTIZED YES / NO	RELIGION
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Have you or your former spouse ever applied for a Church annulment before?

YES  NO  IF YES, BY WHICH TRIBUNAL/DIOCESE \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing the required **\$100.00 non-refundable filing fee and a copy of the final divorce decree.**

In communicating with me, please address my mail as follows:

MR. MRS. MS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
FULL NAME OF THE PETITIONER

\_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY STATE ZIP

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, SWEAR THAT I HAVE TOLD THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, AND THAT UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THIS CASE I WILL REVEAL NEITHER THE QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ASKED NOR THE ANSWERS THAT I HAVE GIVEN, SO HELP ME GOD.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Petitioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest, Deacon, Parish Advocate, or Notary

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

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Completed with the assistance of: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING, IF APPLICABLE:

I believe that grave danger will result from the disclosure of this information to the Respondent for the following reason(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## **PETITIONER QUESTIONNAIRE**

The following questions, while lengthy and detailed, are intended to give the complete background of the total relationship of the parties to the marriage now being questioned. **On separate paper, answer all of the following questions in detail, being sure the answer for each question has its appropriate number. [Please type or print clearly.]**

### **Your Childhood and Adolescence**

1. Describe your parents. How was your relationship with them?
2. Describe your relationships with any siblings.
3. Do you recall any serious issues or problems in your family of origin? Was there any abuse of drugs or alcohol? Were there any other addictive behaviors of note in your immediate family?
4. Did you or any close relative ever experience any sexual abuse or any other type of abuse (physical, emotional, etc.)?
5. Describe your educational background. Overall, how did you feel about school?
6. Were you ever a member of the military? If so, what was that experience like for you?
7. Did you ever have any problems with the law? If so, what were they?
8. Did any of your siblings ever exhibit significant problems (divorce, personal problems, etc.)?
9. Did you ever experience significant physical or mental health problems? If so, please explain.
10. Before you met your former spouse, describe your dating history. Were you ever previously engaged or married? If so, explain the reason for the breakup.
11. Prior to meeting your former spouse, did you have any children?
12. Was there any other important information about your family that was not discussed in the above questions?

### **Your Former Spouse's Childhood and Adolescence**

13. How well did you know your former spouse's parents? To the best of your knowledge how well did your former spouse and his or her parents get along?
14. Did your former spouse have any siblings? If so, did they get along? Please explain.
15. Do you recall any serious issues or problems in your former spouse's family of origin? Was there any abuse of drugs or alcohol? Were there any other addictive behaviors of note in your former spouse's immediate family?
16. Did your former spouse ever experience any sexual abuse or any other type of abuse (physical, emotional, etc.)?

17. Describe your former spouse's educational background. Overall, how did your former spouse feel about school?
18. Was your former spouse ever a member of the military? If so, what was that experience like for your former spouse?
19. Did your former spouse ever have any problems with the law? If so, what were they?
20. Did any of your former spouse's siblings ever exhibit significant problems (divorce, personal problems, etc.)?
21. Did your former spouse ever experience significant physical or mental health problems? If so, please explain.
22. Before you met your former spouse, describe your former spouse's dating history. Was your former spouse ever previously engaged or married? If so, explain the reason for the breakup.
23. Prior to meeting your former spouse, did your former spouse have any children?
24. Was there any other important information about your former spouse's family that was not discussed in the above questions?

### **Courtship**

25. How did you become acquainted with your former spouse? (Please provide dates and places.)
26. When did you begin dating each other, and how often did you date?
27. Please briefly describe your relationship with your former spouse during the time of dating. How did you get along while dating? What did you do on your dates? How long did you date before you decided to marry?
28. How did the decision to marry come about?
29. Describe your relationship during the period of engagement. How did both of you feel as the wedding date approached? Were there any doubts or difficulties during this period?
30. After your engagement, did you date only each other? If not, give details.
31. Were both of you faithful to each other during the engagement?
32. Were there any breakups or separations during your courtship and engagement? Please explain. Who initiated the reconciliation and why?
33. Were there any special problems or unusual circumstances during the courtship or the days just before the marriage? If so, please describe them.
34. Did either of you have any grave or serious doubts or reservations about the marriage or each other before you married? If so, please explain.
35. Did either of you place any conditions on the marriage? If so, please explain.
36. Did anyone advise you against the marriage? If so, please explain who and why? How did you react?

37. What part did each of you play in planning your wedding? Did anyone interfere with your plans?
38. Was there pre-marital sexual activity? Did this influence your decision to marry in any way?
39. Was there any premarital pregnancy? If so, did this influence your decision to marry?

### **Wedding and Marriage**

40. Did both of you feel that you entered into marriage freely and happily?
41. If you felt less than free in your decision to get married, why?
42. At the time of your marriage, did you and your former spouse intend a permanent life-long union until death? If not, explain what you intended.
43. At the time of your marriage, did either of you believe that divorce could be a possibility?
44. In entering marriage, how serious were you and your former spouse about having children? Were there any discussions, agreements or disagreements regarding children? If so, what were the results of the discussions?
45. At the time of the marriage, did either or you intend to delay having children or permanently exclude children?
46. If children were excluded, why were they excluded? Did goals, values and aspects of lifestyle or career conflict with parenthood? If so, what and why?
47. What means, if any, were used to avoid conception? Was contraception always used? Would either of you refuse to have intercourse without a form of contraception? Was intercourse ever open to conception?
48. Did either of you undergo some surgical procedure, such as a vasectomy or tubal ligation, as a means of contraception? Who? When? How was this decision made and why?
49. At the time of the marriage, did you both intend to commit yourselves to only one another for life? If not, what did you intend?
50. At the time of the marriage, what did you understand “marital fidelity” or “being faithful” to mean?
51. At the time of the marriage, did either of you ever discuss giving each other the freedom to see others during the marriage? If so, please explain.
52. At the time of the marriage, did either of you envision a situation when it would be acceptable to have sexual relations with another person? For example, to retaliate for infidelity by your former spouse, if one of the parties was unwilling or unable to have sexual intercourse, etc.?
53. Were both of you, in fact, faithful to each other? If not, please give details about when infidelity began, how often it occurred, etc. Why did this happen?
54. During your engagement and at the time of the marriage, did you intend to give your former spouse the right to equality in mutual decision making?

55. During your engagement and at the time of your marriage, how did the two of you agree to handle your finances? In practice, how were the financial responsibilities handled?
56. Did you or your former spouse intend to marry someone possessing specific qualities/values and later discover that these qualities/values were not present? If so, please explain.
57. Were you or your former spouse deceived by the other? Was the deception designed for the marriage to occur?

### **Wedding and Marriage**

58. How was the wedding day and celebration itself? Was there anything unusual or noteworthy?
59. Were both of you sober and unimpaired at the time of the wedding?
60. How was the honeymoon? Were there any problems or issues during the honeymoon?
61. When was the marriage consummated (in other words when did you first have sexual relations with each other after the wedding ceremony)?
62. How was the first year of your marriage? Give an idea of what your daily life looked like. Were there any problems in your marriage?
63. Were you happy in the early part of your marriage? If so, how long?
64. When did you first notice serious problems in your marriage? What were they and how were they resolved?
65. What were your main complaints regarding your former spouse as a husband and father or wife and mother?
66. What were his/her main complaints about you as a spouse and/or parent?
67. How long were you officially married, from the wedding day to the divorce?
68. In retrospect, what would you say were the factors that helped you remain in the marriage?
69. When and over what did the first separation occur? Please be as specific as possible with dates and issues.
70. Please give details of any other separations. How and why did you get back together? Please specify dates and issues.

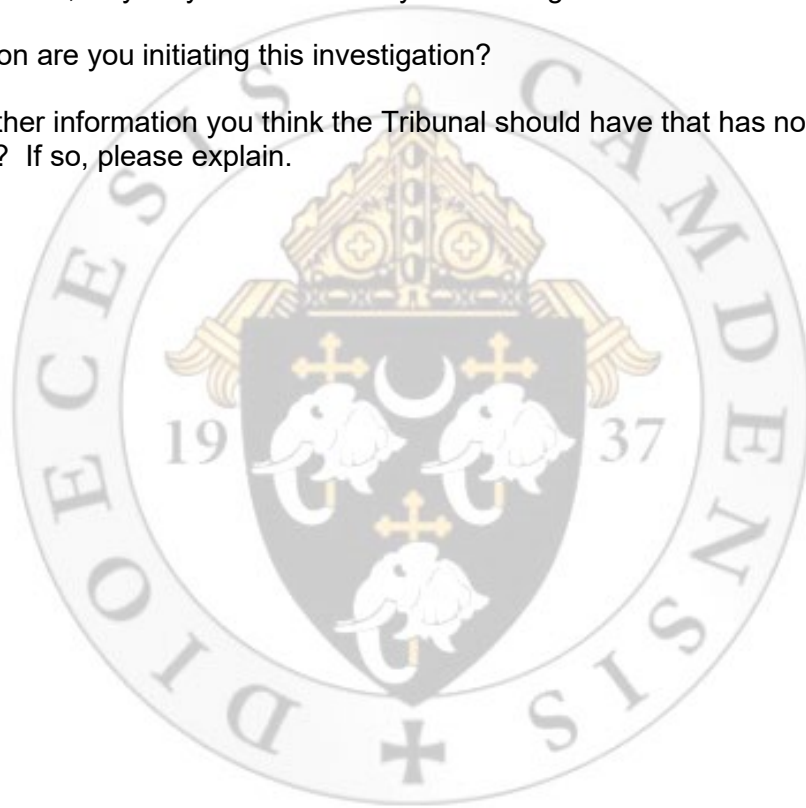
### **Separation and Divorce**

71. When and why did the final separation take place? Please be as specific as possible with dates and issues.
72. At any time did you discuss your marital problems with a professional person, counselor, priest, doctor or agency? Did you seek individual or joint counseling? (Please provide name and address of any professional.)

73. When were statements first made about a possible divorce? If you believed in the permanence of marriage, why did this marriage end in divorce?
74. Who initiated the divorce process and why?
75. Who received the custody of the children, if any? Have there been any changes in the custody arrangements? Are all of your civil and moral obligations to your former spouse and your children being met?
76. Has your former spouse remarried? If so, please give the name, religion, and previous marital status of his/her present spouse.

**Conclusion**

77. In a brief statement, why do you believe that your marriage is invalid?
78. For what reason are you initiating this investigation?
79. Is there any other information you think the Tribunal should have that has not been asked in this questionnaire? If so, please explain.



## **MY NARRATIVE FOR MY ANNULMENT**

### **A. NAMES OF THE PARTIES**

### **B. BIRTHDAYS AND WHETHER BOTH BAPTIZED**

### **C. CURRENT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS**

1. (THIS INFORMATION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE THE ANNULMENT PROCESS.)
- 

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO USE BACK AND FRONT AND MORE PAPER IF YOU NEED TO DO SO.**

**THIS WILL HELP THE TRIBUNAL DECIDE ON WAYS TO PROCEED.**

**PLEASE ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND TO CALL: 856-5893-6162.**

2. My Family Growing Up and My Family History Back to My Grandparents On Both Sides of My Family

(Including our practice of being Catholic, whether we had any types of struggles in our family like moving a lot, divorce, employment problems)

3. The Same Information About Your Former Spouse.

(as much as you know)

4. My Dating History

5. The Same Information About Your Former Spouse

(as much as you know)

6. Our Dating History Together

(Wow we met, when we became serious boyfriend and girlfriend, and why – what attracted you to this particular person at this time in your life?)

7. Our Engagement and Wedding

(How did you two decide to marry? Were the families and friends happy? Was there anything that pushed it like a pregnancy or wanting to get out of the house or not be the only one you knew who was not yet married, who made the plans? Did anything remarkable happen on wedding day like you told any family or friends you did not know whether this was a good thing to do? Was the wedding nice and why?)

8. Honeymoon and Early Married Life

9. Our Married Life Together, And If It Applies, With Our Children

10. The End Of Our Common Life Together After \_\_\_\_\_ Years

(Please provide details of how life was and things that happened that led to the end of the marriage and when they started happening.)



**PLEASE ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND TO CALL - 856-583-6162.**

**IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO HELP YOU!**