

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION

The questions on this page will help you to prepare for your interview and will supply information that will assist in identifying 'Grounds' on which you can petition the Church to review your marriage to see if it is binding for life according to the laws of the Catholic Church.

Reflecting on these points will help you talk about them when you attend your interview. If you have difficulty writing your answers, please don't hesitate to ask for help at the Tribunal Office in typing up the story for you and putting it into the format that will be used in your case.

Pre-Marriage

Give a brief account of the background, family, education etc of both parties. Describe in some detail the circumstances of your meeting with your former partner, how your relationship developed and a history of the relationship with each other from the time you met until the marriage. Include any significant circumstances or situations which may have affected the decision to marry – sickness, family reasons, pregnancy, etc. Was there an engagement? What was your relationship like during the engagement period? Did anything significant occur during this time? Were there any misgivings or doubts expressed by either of you or anybody else about the upcoming marriage?

At the time of the marriage

In entering your marriage, did either you or your former partner have any reservations about what you were entering into? Did you understand marriage to be permanent, exclusive and open to children? Did either of you have any reservations or conditions regarding these aspects of marriage? Were either of you seeking other effects from the marriage – eg immigration, inheritance, a reason to leave the parental home?

Story of the marriage

Tell us about the history of the marriage from the first few months to the final separation. Were there any particular difficulties in the sexual relationship? What were your attitudes to each other? How were you able to discuss and evaluate matters together? What was the relationship like with each other's families? Who had financial responsibility? Who did the household chores? What was your social life together like?

When did the problems first appear in the marriage? Tell us about them. What steps did you and your partner take to keep the marriage together? Did you seek any professional (medical, psychiatric, counselling) advice? Please give details. Was there anything in either of your backgrounds giving indications of mental illness in the family?

Please add anything else which you consider would be helpful to give a better understanding of your former marriage. Describe as clearly as possible why you consider the marriage failed and why you consider you have a case for an annulment.