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For office use only

LIBELLUS
PETITION FOR A DECLARATION OF NULLITY
THROUGH THE ABBREVIATED MARRIAGE NULLITY
PROCESS BEFORE THE BISHOP (*PROCESSUS BREVIOR*)

I, **YOUR PRESENT NAME** hereby exercise my right to challenge my marriage to **RESPONDENT'S (i.e. – former spouse's) FULL NAME**, before the Toledo Tribunal in accord with canon 1674 §1, 1°. I further request that the Tribunal of the Diocese of Toledo admit my *libellus* of the nullity of my consent to an examination by way of the abbreviated process before the diocesan bishop, His Excellency Daniel E. Thomas.

Our consent took place on **FULL DATE** at **PLACE OF MARRIAGE (CHURCH NAME OR OTHERWISE)** in **NAME** County, **CITY AND STATE** .

The following is a brief summary of the reasons that I am accusing my marriage of nullity from the moment of consent.

With the help of your Advocate, and in a few concise paragraphs, type here to succinctly describe the reasons you think your marriage was invalid due to a defect in or incapacity to consent. Please take the following points into consideration:

Family backgrounds, any problems growing up, and how they impacted the subsequent choices to date and marry;

Courtship (and, if applicable, cohabitation);

Decision to marry, motivations, if there was pressure;

Engagement period and any difficulties;

Married life and when problems began;

Why the marriage failed and how this points to invalidity from consent onward.

Furthermore, I allege that my marriage is **manifestly invalid** from the outset because **TYPE RESPONSE HERE – this is where you explain why the marriage is so manifestly invalid that it should require minimal further investigation beyond the facts alleged and the documentary proofs provided alongside your petition**

With these facts in mind, I request that the Toledo Tribunal examine the consent to the above-mentioned marriage on the basis of the following ground(s), which I have discussed with my Advocate:

Please type the alleged ground(s) here, including (1) the canon number and (2) which party/parties each ground is alleged against (Petitioner, Respondent, or both parties)

See EXPLANATION OF GROUNDS OF NULLITY document for more information.

Example:

Canon 1095, 1° A Lack of Sufficient Use of Reason on the part of the Petitioner

I fully realize that a declaration that the consent exchanged between myself and my former spouse, the Respondent, was invalid depends on the proofs presented and that it is my responsibility to assure the Tribunal that adequate and truthful facts are offered for this examination. Here is a brief list of proofs that will be helpful in investigating the alleged ground in my cause:

Witnesses

- **Full Name of Witness 1 – Relationship to parties and what he/she can testify before the Tribunal**
- **Full Name of Witness 2 – Relationship to parties and what he/she can testify before the Tribunal**
- **Full Name of Witness 3 – Relationship to parties and what he/she can testify before the Tribunal**
- **Full Name of Witness 4 – Relationship to parties and what he/she can testify before the Tribunal**

In addition to the above proofs, the manifest nullity of my marriage can be supported by the following proofs to be collected at the instructional session:

- **List proofs here, including witnesses and the way in which their testimony will support the petition.**

The following documents, which support the manifest invalidity of my marriage, have been attached to this petition:

- **List documents here: CAN INCLUDE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: MEDICAL RECORDS, EMAILS, SCREENSHOTS, LETTERS, PHOTOS, AND SO ON.**

I understand that if the above requirements for the abbreviated process, including the manifest invalidity of my marriage and the consent of the Respondent to the use of the abbreviated process, are not met, my cause will be admitted to the ordinary process if it is otherwise admissible.

I further understand that even if my cause is admitted to the abbreviated process, it is not a guarantee of an affirmative decision and that if the bishop is not morally certain of the nullity of my marriage, my cause will be remitted to the ordinary process.

I understand that during the instruction of my cause, the parties and all the witnesses must come to the Tribunal of the Diocese of Toledo on the same day and at the same time to give a deposition, and that both I and the Respondent can be present at the examination of the parties and witnesses during the instruction of the cause unless the Instructor decides otherwise.

I understand that no assurance can be given of an affirmative decision, that is, one which recognizes that consent was invalid, nor can assurance be made of a definite timeline for the completion of this process. Furthermore, **I understand that absolutely no arrangements can be made for a future Catholic marriage or convalidation unless and until I have received a final and favorable decision from the Toledo Tribunal and any and all appeals Tribunals to which this matter may be directed.** I recognize that this process is an entirely ecclesiastical one with juridic effects at canon law but without any legal effects under United States civil law.

I understand that the Respondent has the same rights as I do in this process, including a right to participate fully, and as such will receive a copy of this *libellus* (c. 1508 §2) if not petitioning jointly for this process. If we desire to do so, the Respondent and I will both be permitted to review the acts, testimony, and definitive sentence of this cause at the appropriate times.

My current address is: **FULL MAILING ADDRESS**

The Respondent's current address is: **FULL MAILING ADDRESS**

I swear before God that all that is contained in this *libellus* is submitted freely by myself, the Petitioner, and is true to the best of my knowledge and memory.

_____ Signature of Petitioner	_____ Date
_____ Signature of Petitioner's Advocate	_____ Date

RESPONDENT'S CONSENT FOR USE OF THE ABBREVIATED PROCESS

I join with the Petitioner in petitioning for a declaration of nullity via the abbreviated process, and I agree with all of the allegations made by the Petitioner in the above *libellus*. I have signed all the places on the Application forms which require my signature.

OR

I do not join the Petitioner in petitioning for a declaration of nullity but I do consent to the use of the abbreviated process. I understand that this process entails fewer procedural protections of my right of defense.

Signature of Respondent

Date