

1. Provide the complete address of the Petitioner. If a woman, include **Maiden name** in brackets by followed by her current name.
2. Documents must be included. If originals, they will be returned with the Tribunal decree. The required documents are:
  - A. The **Certificate of Baptism** of the Catholic Party must be of recent issue (within the last 6 months). Request that all notations be included on the Certificate.
  - B. **Marriage License**, if a photocopy be sure information is legible. The name of the officiant and the date should be present.
  - C. **Divorce Decree**—The original or a certified copy of the **final** decree of divorce must be submitted, **not** the separation agreement or the Bill of Complaint.
3. The Court fee for the cases of Absence of Form is \$40.00 which **MUST** accompany the petition and documents. The Petitioner's check must be made payable to **Diocese of Arlington**.
4. Please use only the attached petition form and destroy all old forms.

The Tribunal, Diocese of Arlington  
200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 524  
Arlington, VA 22203-3728  
703-841-2555

PETITION FOR A  
DECREE OF ABSENCE OF FORM  
(Please **print** legibly)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ was a  
(check one)  Baptized Catholic  Non-Catholic Denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

when I married \_\_\_\_\_ . This person was a  
(check one)  Baptized Catholic  Non-Catholic Denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage date \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_

The wedding was officiated by  
(check one)  Catholic priest  Orthodox priest\*  Minister  Rabbi  civil official

Divorce date \_\_\_\_\_ County, state of  
divorce \_\_\_\_\_

\*For a marriage involving an Orthodox person or Orthodox priest, please contact the Tribunal before submitting any forms.

I request a Decree of Absence of Form be granted. I hereby swear to the truth of my answers to the following questions:

1. On the day of the wedding was at least one of the parties Catholic?  Yes  No
2. Was permission ever obtained from the Catholic Church Authorities to marry in a Non-Catholic or civil ceremony?  Yes  No
3. Was a Catholic ceremony held at a later date?  Yes  No

Petitioner's signature \_\_\_\_\_

***Petitioner – current information***

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

Current marital status: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_  Biological

Adopted

Former spouse's present name \_\_\_\_\_

To the Priest/Deacon: I affirm the accuracy of the Petition and documents. Enclosed is a check for \$40.00.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Priest/Deacon (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Priest/Deacon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish of Priest/Deacon