



*Office of Canonical Affairs  
and the Tribunal  
Diocese of Arlington  
200 North Glebe Road, Suite 524  
Arlington, VA 22203-3728  
703-841-2555*

**PETITION FOR A DECREE OF  
ABSENCE OF CANONICAL FORM  
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.)**

**Note to the Petitioner and Interviewer (Priest/Deacon):** If either spouse was baptized Orthodox or the wedding was officiated by an Orthodox priest, please contact the Tribunal before filling the form.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please use only the attached petition form. You may fill it in by hand or electronically but it must be signed manually by you and a priest or deacon. **Electronic signatures will not be accepted.**  
If you choose to handwrite the form, print and write your responses legibly in black ink only.
2. Begin your petition with "I, (state your full legal name)." If *applicable*, include your **Maiden Name** in parentheses after your current last name.
3. Indicate your former spouse's full legal name. If *applicable*, include the **Maiden Name** in parentheses after the current last name.
4. Provide your complete mailing address.
5. Below is a list of required documents that must be submitted with your petition. Original documents will be returned with the final decree to the priest or deacon who assisted you in completing your paperwork.
  - A. **Certificate of Baptism of the Catholic Party** – A newly issued Catholic baptismal certificate (dated within the last six months) must be submitted with **NOTATIONS**. Please do not send a ceremonial copy of the baptismal certificate with no marriage notations. Any marriage notations or lack thereof, must be indicated.
  - B. **Marriage License** – If providing a photocopy, be sure all information are legible. The name of the officiant and the wedding date should be present.
  - C. **Divorce Decree** – The original or a certified copy of the **final** decree of divorce must be submitted (**not the property settlement, bill of complaint, nor interlocutory decree**).



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I, (State Your Full Legal Name) \_\_\_\_\_, was a

(check one)  Baptized Catholic  Non-Catholic Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

when I married \_\_\_\_\_. He/She 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

***\*If either spouse was baptized Orthodox or the wedding was officiated by an Orthodox priest, please contact the Tribunal before submitting the form.***

Divorce Date: \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of Divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

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

✍ Signature of Petitioner \_\_\_\_\_

**Petitioner's Information**

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Current Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_

**Priest/Deacon: I affirm the accuracy of the Petition and documents.**

\_\_\_\_\_ ✍ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ ✍ Signature of Interviewer (Priest/Deacon)

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Interviewer (Priest/Deacon)

\_\_\_\_\_ Parish of Interviewer (include city)

SEAL: