

What are the steps of the process?

- Fill out the application from this website by clicking on Preliminary Application and gather all the information required. Submit application by email or mail. If you have any questions, contact the tribunal at (902) 429-9800 ext. 321
- Meet with a staff member of Tribunal to discuss the Application and make a donation (see #4 below).
- Notify your former spouse that you are planning to apply for nullity.
- You (applicant) will be formally interviewed under oath by an auditor.
- The Tribunal contacts the former spouse by mail. If he/she is willing to participate, he/she meets with a staff member of the Tribunal to discuss the case and give a formal interview.
- Witnesses will be interviewed under oath.
- Experts such as therapists may be consulted. If consultation is deemed necessary, the Applicant bears the costs.
- The Defender of the bond (a Church lawyer) reviews the gathered testimonies and writes the brief of observations.
- The Judge will study the case and give a decision.
- The decision may be appealed
- If there are no appeals within 15 days of the decision, the parties will be free to marry, once any conditional requirements are satisfactorily addressed
- The supporting decrees will be formulated.
- Note that if the Tribunal comes to a negative decision the case is not automatically forwarded to the Appeal tribunal; however, either party may appeal the decision.

The Application Section:

- 1. OBTAIN DOCUMENTS:**
 - a. A **current** record of your baptism from the church where you were baptized. This must be **dated by the church within the last six months.**
 - b. Your detailed marriage certificate
 - c. Your divorce certificate
- 2. EX-SPOUSE:** Obtain the current mailing and email address and phone number of your ex-spouse. Please notify your ex-spouse as tactfully as possible, that you will be applying to the Catholic Church for a declaration of nullity.
- 3. WITNESSES:** Select three people who can serve as witnesses, and obtain their consent to do so, along with their full mailing address, phone numbers & e-mail address. The witnesses do not have to be Catholics, but should know about the courtship & early years of the marriage in question.

4. **FEE:** The considerable cost of this service is now being covered by the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth along with the parishes but we ask you, the applicant, to make a donation to assist with this Marriage Tribunal ministry. Payment may be made to the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. A tax receipt will be issued to you.
5. **CASE HISTORY:** The Applicant must write a case history and also name any professional people who have been involved in counselling related to the marital situation, e.g. marriage counsellor, psychiatrist, or clergyman.
6. **TIME:** The Tribunal cannot predict the length of time needed to process a case. Much depends on the cooperation of the parties, the availability of witnesses, whether or not there are any languages requiring translation services and the complexity of the grounds. Also, the size of the existing caseload affects the amount of time to process applications. The Tribunal appreciates your patience.
7. In certain instances where the **grounds of the case are extremely clear** and both parties **give written consent**, a **briefer process** may be employed, whereby the Archbishop will make the decision to grant the decree of nullity or not. In order to grant the decree, he must have obtained moral certainty that the grounds are supported by the evidence.

Marriage Tribunal
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