

# WITNESS CONSENT FORM



Archdiocese of | Archidiocèse d'  
**Halifax-Yarmouth**

Please complete and return to the Halifax Marriage Tribunal at:

1559 Brunswick Street, Suite 101, Halifax, NS B3J 2G1  
TEL: (902) 429-9800 ext. 321 FAX: (902) 425-0997  
WEB: [www.halifaxyarmouth.org](http://www.halifaxyarmouth.org) EMAIL: [ctargett@halifaxyarmouth.org](mailto:ctargett@halifaxyarmouth.org)

I have received a request for a personal interview regarding the case for invalidity of the  
marriage of: \_\_\_\_\_, and  
(Full name of husband)

\_\_\_\_\_, at the request of  
(Full MAIDEN name of wife)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of:  Petitioner \_\_\_ Respondent)

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### (This section is to be completed by the witness.)

1. I am willing to be interviewed about this marriage:  Yes  No
2. My relationship is: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: mother of Jane, cousin of Bill, Friend of Jane & Bill)
3. In order to make arrangements for my interview, I may be contacted by TELEPHONE at:
4. Daytime #: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening #: \_\_\_\_\_
5. My full Mailing address is: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Province: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I will be contacted by a representative of the Marriage Tribunal who will  
arrange for an interview to be conducted at a mutually agreeable time:

Please read the back of this form for general information for witnesses **before signing**.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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## GENERAL INFORMATION FOR WITNESSES

People who are asked to give evidence before the Catholic Marriage Tribunal in a marriage nullity case are sometimes nervous and need to be set at ease. This sheet will help clarify the procedure and answer some of your frequently asked questions.

1. The examination of the validity of this marriage is carried out by Church-appointed personnel and deals only with the status of this marriage in the eyes of the Catholic Church. It has nothing to do with civil law procedures and has no effect on the civil status of the couple's relationship, nor does it affect the legitimacy of children, if any, born of this marriage; by Church law they are and continue to be legitimate whether the declaration of nullity is granted or denied.
2. You are one of several persons giving information in this case. The purpose of the investigation is to determine the validity of the marriage in accordance with the laws of the Catholic Church. This validity is being challenged by the person who is petitioning for a declaration of nullity before the Marriage Tribunal. This is the reason why you are being asked to meet for an interview. The marriage will be declared invalid if the information we obtain proves it to be so. Our intent is to gather facts about the marriage as it was lived out, and about the parties in the marriage, so that a decision regarding the validity of the marriage can be made.
3. We are not trying to pass judgement on anyone involved. We are looking at the marriage itself. We know that there was something wrong with it – it broke up, so we will not be surprised to hear of some unfortunate or even tragic circumstances or events. Do not be afraid to tell us what you know about the marriage or the parties, even if it is unpleasant. The fact that the parties themselves presented you as witnesses implicitly gives you the freedom to say what you know about the marriage.
4. Your testimony will be taken one-on-one in an interview with an auditor of the Tribunal. It will be recorded on audiotape. The testimony will be transcribed onto paper and then **the following people may read it:** the Tribunal staff, who are bound by the strictest confidentiality, and the two parties involved. We ask that you also keep confidential the questions of your interview, and the information you disclosed.
5. You might not have personal knowledge concerning every question asked. However, you may have knowledge of commonly held opinions or from "second-hand" sources. If this is so, please give us the information, but specify where it came from. It may support or confirm other testimony we receive.
6. We remind you that you are not breaking up a marriage. You are merely being asked to give facts, as you know them, concerning this particular marriage as well as your personal knowledge of one or both of the parties. The Judges will make the decision regarding validity based on Church law. Your evidence is important. Please tell us only what you know, but please tell *all* you know and how you came to know it.