



Pauline Privilege: Instructions

1. The Pauline Privilege is not a declaration of nullity, but rather an action of the Church which declares its power over a non-sacramental bond of marriage. The first marriage is dissolved when the second is contracted.
2. In order for the Pauline Privilege to be employed, the following must be the status of the marriage:
 - Both parties were **unbaptized** (or **not** validly baptized) at the time of the contract of marriage.
 - Neither was baptized during the course of the marriage, or only one was baptized. If the Petitioner was baptized, the Respondent must remain unbaptized.
 - The parties separated and were civilly divorced.
 - There is no hope of reconciliation.
3. In addition, in order to grant the petition legitimately:
 - The Petitioner must receive Baptism.
 - The Petitioner must be planning marriage or regularization with a Catholic party.
 - If either the Petitioner does not desire Baptism and/or is not planning marriage, the Pauline Privilege **cannot** be granted.
4. To introduce the case, the Petitioner will fill out the Form **Pauline Privilege – Petition**.
 - It is **necessary** for the Respondent (former spouse) to participate in this process. Therefore, complete contact information must be included.
 - We must have the names and contact information of two witnesses to your **non**-baptism, namely relatives or long-time friends who can state with moral certitude about your **non**-baptism at the time of your marriage and, if possible, the Respondent as well.
 - We must have the Certificate of Marriage and the Final Decree of Divorce.
 - It is necessary to have the name and contact information, including an email address, of a Catholic pastoral minister with whom the Petitioner is working on the Pauline Privilege petition.
5. If the Tribunal accepts the case and contacts the Respondent, then only the Tribunal will send the **Pauline Privilege Questionnaire** to the Petitioner and contact the witnesses.
6. When all documents and questionnaires are assembled, the Defender of the Bond will examine all of them to determine whether the Tribunal can declare the Privilege with moral certitude.
7. The Judicial Vicar, delegated by the Archbishop of the Military Archdiocese, will sign and send the decrees.

Please submit a non-refundable registration fee of \$100 with this form.

If this is not possible, please contact the Tribunal.



The Tribunal
ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA
 P.O. Box 4469
 Washington, D.C. 20017-0469
 Telephone: 202-719-3604
 Fax: 202-269-9022
 Email: tribunal@milarch.org

PAULINE PRIVILEGE – PETITION

Most Reverend Father,
 I, the undersigned Petitioner, _____, humbly petition
LAST NAME OF PETITIONER (USE MAIDEN NAME IF A WOMAN), FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME

Your Excellency to recognize by virtue of the Pauline Privilege a dissolution of the natural bond of my marriage to
 _____.
LAST NAME OF FORMER SPOUSE (USE MAIDEN NAME IF A WOMAN), FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME

I was born on _____, in _____.
DATE CITY AND STATE

to _____ and _____.
FATHER'S NAME MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME

My father was of the _____ religion, and my mother was of
FATHER'S RELIGION

the _____ religion. I _____ baptized. I was reared
MOTHER'S RELIGION WAS/WAS NEVER

in the _____ religion.
RELIGION YOU WERE REARED IN

I contracted a legitimate marriage on _____ before a _____
DATE PRIEST, MINISTER, MAGISTRATE, ETC.

at _____ in _____
NAME OF CHURCH OR BUILDING CITY AND STATE

to _____, who was born on _____
FORMER SPOUSE'S [MAIDEN] NAME DATE

in _____ present name is _____
CITY AND STATE HIS/HER FORMER SPOUSE'S CURRENT NAME

and current address is _____.
FORMER SPOUSE'S CURRENT ADDRESS

_____ baptized and was of the _____ religion when we married.
HE/SHE WAS/WAS NEVER FORMER SPOUSE'S RELIGION

Our marriage lasted for approximately _____.
LENGTH OF COHABITATION, SPECIFY EXACTLY (E.G. 5 YEARS, 7 MONTHS)

A civil divorce was obtained by _____ on _____ in _____
PETITIONER OR RESPONDENT DATE CITY AND STATE

on the grounds of _____.
GROUND OF DIVORCE

There was/were _____ child(ren) born of this union.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN

The baptismal status and religion of each child is:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

As a result of the divorce, the child(ren) is/are in _____ custody.
WHOSE

The Following is a brief summary of the history and problems in our marriage (use additional page if needed):

The reasons for the final breakup were the following: _____

On or about _____, I met _____, _____ resides
MONTH AND YEAR PRESENT/INTENDED SPOUSE HE/SHE

at _____, _____ is of
PRESENT/INTENDED SPOUSE'S FULL ADDRESS HE/SHE

the _____ religion.
PRESENT/INTENDED SPOUSE'S RELIGION

[If a civil marriage has already been entered, please complete the following:

***We entered a civil marriage before a _____ at
MINISTER, MAGISTRATE, ETC.***

_____ ***on _____ . We sincerely desire to***
CITY AND STATE DATE

regularize this attempted marriage in the Catholic Church.]

It is my intention to be baptized a Christian in the Roman Catholic Church, and I have begun instructions in the

Faith with _____ of _____
PASTOR'S NAME PARISH
in _____
CITY AND STATE

In support of my petition I submit the required documents and contact information of witnesses to my **non**-baptism.

Witness #1: _____
FULL NAME RELATIONSHIP

MAILING ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS PHONE NUMBER

Witness #2: _____
FULL NAME RELATIONSHIP

MAILING ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS PHONE NUMBER

I now respectfully seek to invoke the Pauline Privilege for the following reasons:

- The moral impossibility of reconciliation with my former spouse.
- My desire to be baptized and become a member of the Catholic Church.
- The safeguarding of my faith and that of my intended spouse by the opportunity to be married in the Catholic Church and to lead lives truly Catholic.

NAME OF CATHOLIC PASTORAL MINISTER HOME OR CELL PHONE NUMBER WORK PHONE NUMBER

CIVILIAN EMAIL ADDRESS MILITARY EMAIL ADDRESS

“I reaffirm before God that I have answered truthfully and to the extent of my knowledge.”

SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER DATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CIVILIAN EMAIL ADDRESS HOME OR CELL PHONE NUMBER WORK PHONE NUMBER

MILITARY EMAIL ADDRESS