



Pauline Privilege: Instructions

1. Please fill out the form as fully as possible. This form is not to be completed or submitted without the complete contact information and signature of the assisting Catholic Pastoral Minister, with whom the Petitioner is working on the Pauline Privilege Petition.
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.
 - ☐ Following baptism, the Petitioner is not the one responsible for giving the other party a just cause for departing.
3. In addition, in order to grant the petition legitimately:
 - The Petitioner must receive Baptism.
 - The Petitioner must be planning to contract a new and valid marriage.
 - If the Petitioner does not desire Baptism and/or is not planning marriage, the Pauline Privilege cannot be granted.
 - The Respondent does not wish to receive Baptism and/or to cohabit in peace with the Petitioner without offence to the Creator after the Baptism of the Petitioner.
4. Requirements:
 - Respondent's (former spouse) contact information and participation is necessary.
 - The names and contact information of two witnesses to the non-baptism of both the Petitioner and the Respondent, namely relatives or long-time friends who can state with moral certitude about their non-baptism at the time of the wedding.
 - An authentic and recent Baptismal record with ALL annotations (front and back) of any Catholic or non-Catholic baptized party or parties involved in any of the marriages, issued within the last 6 months. If none, the parish of record is to cross the notation section out, or write "no notations."
 - An authentic and recent Profession of Faith record with ALL annotations (front and back) of any party who became Catholic as an adult after their baptism, issued within the last 6 months. If none, the parish of record is to cross the notation section out, or write "no notations."
 - A copy of the Civil Marriage Certificate showing the name and title of the officiant, the location, and the names of the witnesses for the marriage being investigated and for the one that is the basis of the prior bond.
 - A copy of the Final Decree of Divorce (particularly, the first page with docket number and last page with judge's signature) for the marriage being investigated and for the one that is the basis of the prior bond.

5. Additional Items:

- Please submit a non-refundable fee of \$100 with this form. If this is not possible, please contact the Tribunal.
- Please do not send these instruction pages with the petition.
- Please submit the petition only once, via postal mail or email.
- Please do not staple pages or documents together.
- Wet ink signatures required on all forms. Not digital.



The Tribunal
Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA
P.O. Box 4469
Washington, D.C. 20017-0469

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 Fax: 202-269-9022
 Email: tribunal@milarch.org

Pauline Privilege – Petition

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

Your Excellency, the Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, 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 the
FATHER'S RELIGION

_____ religion. I _____ baptized at the time of the wedding.
MOTHER'S RELIGION WAS/WAS NOT

I was reared 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 NOT FORMER SPOUSE'S RELIGION

Our marriage lasted for _____. A civil divorce was obtained by
LENGTH OF COHABITATION, SPECIFY EXACTLY (E.G. 5 YEARS, 7 MONTHS)

_____ on _____ in _____ on the grounds of
PETITIONER OR RESPONDENT DATE CITY AND STATE

GROUND OFS OF DIVORCE

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

The baptismal status, religion, and age 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. CITY AND STATE
 on _____. We sincerely desire to regularize this attempted marriage in the Catholic Church.]
DATE

It is my intention to be baptized in the 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 and my ex-spouse's **non-baptism**, at the time of the wedding.

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 (if not baptized yet).
- 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

SIGNATURE OF CATHOLIC PASTORAL MINISTER

CIVILIAN EMAIL ADDRESS

HOME OR CELL PHONE NUMBER WORK PHONE NUMBER

MILITARY EMAIL ADDRESS

I swear 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