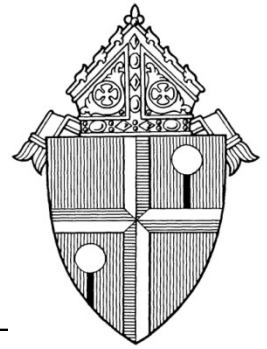


# THE DIOCESAN TRIBUNAL

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HONOLULU • ST. STEPHEN DIOCESAN CENTER  
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## Witness Testimony. 'JU]XU]cb Dfot. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Re.: Marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ petitioner  
and \_\_\_\_\_ respondent

Name of witness \_\_\_\_\_

Your relationship to petitioner \_\_\_\_\_ Years acquainted \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., 1995-2002)

Your relationship to respondent \_\_\_\_\_ Years acquainted \_\_\_\_\_

Dear witness: We would like to be able to process this cause in a timely manner. Therefore, we would ask that you *please* return this form to us within **30 days** (by \_\_\_\_\_). If you need more time than this, just let us know.

Please be as factual and objective as possible, giving examples where you can. If you heard things from someone else, state whom you heard it from and when. Thank you.

**Oath of witness:** I, the above-named witness, hereby swear that the answers which I have given on the attached sheets of paper are the **whole truth and nothing but the truth**, and that I will not reveal the answers given by me until a decision has been rendered by the Catholic Church, which is for spiritual purposes only. I understand that only Tribunal staff and, if they request it, the parties may read this testimony. I understand that these answers are not intended to be a derogation of anyone's character but simply a statement of the complete truth which will assist the Tribunal in arriving at a proper decision concerning the aforementioned marriage. So help me God.

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of secretary/notary \_\_\_\_\_ Parish or Notary Seal

**Any secretary of a Catholic parish or a public notary may sign and seal this witness form.**

**Early background:** Describe any problems in the home life of each party growing up. Also describe any difficulties in the person's school years and early work experiences. Please include any incidents with police, alcohol or substance abuse, if there was a history of divorce in the family, etc. Describe the religious upbringing of each party.

**Petitioner:**

**Respondent:**

**Dating Period:** How well did the parties know each other prior to the marriage? What was their communication like before the marriage? How long did they date (before they got engaged), and do you think that it was long enough? Describe how the parties got engaged, if you know.

Describe any problems between the parties while they were dating or engaged. If you or anyone else had any doubts about the advisability of the marriage, please explain. Note if there were any factors compelling the parties to marry when they did (e.g., premarital pregnancy, military duty, immigration status, family pressure).

Describe the emotional state of the parties at the time of the marriage. Did they understand the seriousness of marriage obligations? Were they mature or immature in their decision making for their age? Explain.

**Validation:** The parties first married in a civil or non-Catholic ceremony and then later had their marriage validated (“blessed” or “convalidated”) in the Catholic Church. This is what the Church considers to be the marriage.

Do you know why they did not have their marriage take place in the Catholic Church in the first place? Explain.

Why did the parties have their marriage validated in the Catholic Church when they did? Whose idea was it?

Were you present for the validation ceremony? If not, when did you find out about it?

What was the state of the marriage at the time of the validation ceremony? Were there already problems in the relationship? If so, what were the problems? What impact did the validation in the Catholic Church have on the marriage?

**Fidelity:** To your knowledge, did either party ever date anyone else while dating or engaged? Explain the circumstances.

To your knowledge, was either party ever unfaithful? Explain. Did this occur before or after the validation?

**Perpetuity (Indissolubility):** The Catholic Church teaches that marriage lasts until the death of one of the parties, and that even a civil divorce does not mean that the parties are no longer married. However, our modern culture holds that marriage can be ended by either party at will by securing a divorce.

To your knowledge, what did the **petitioner** believe about the indissolubility of marriage at the time of the validation?

To your knowledge, what did the **respondent** believe about the indissolubility of marriage at the time of the validation?

**Children:** If the parties did not have children, what was their attitude toward having children at the time that they had the marriage validated? Do you know why they did not have children?

**Problems of the marriage:** What were the problems of the marriage? Include any difficulties with raising children, sharing household responsibilities, finances, in-laws, career choices, police, alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, etc. Note if there was any physical, verbal, or mental abuse.

Describe any major differences between the parties that ended up causing problems (e.g., differences in religion, cultural background, education, social and recreational interests, personality styles). To your knowledge, were these differences considered by the parties before they got married? Explain.

**The break-up:** Please describe the break-up. What do you know to have been the immediate causes of the marriage break-up?

Were you surprised at the separation/divorce? When did you first learn of problems in the marriage? If you were unaware of any problems during the marriage, why do you think you were unaware?

**Character of the petitioner:** Is the petitioner honest and morally upright? Why or why not?

Please describe the petitioner's level of maturity, respectfulness, sense of responsibility, loyalty, emotional stability, and ability to exercise self-control, make good decisions, accept criticism and admit mistakes.

**Character of the respondent:** Is the respondent honest and morally upright? Why or why not?

Please describe the respondent's level of maturity, respectfulness, sense of responsibility, loyalty, emotional stability, and ability to exercise self-control, make good decisions, accept criticism and admit mistakes.