

Lack of Canonical Form Petition

Policy No. 752

Policy Statement: The attempted marriage of a Catholic before a civil official or non-Catholic minister, without the proper dispensation from canonical form, is invalid (c. 1108).

Procedure: The parties may be declared free to marry without a formal nullity process when all of the following conditions are met:

- at least one of the parties was a baptized Catholic at the time of the marriage
- the marriage was not celebrated in the Catholic Church or was celebrated outside of the Church without a dispensation from canonical form
- the union was never subsequently validated in the Church

If all of the conditions stated above exist, submit a completed Petition for Declaration of Nullity - Lack of Form (Appendix 752A), including the following documents and information:

- a “Certified Photographic Print” of the Civil Registration of Marriage (not simply the Marriage Certificate)
- a copy of the final divorce decree
- a recent copy of the baptism certificate of the Catholic party, issued within the last six months, with notations
- a list of the places of residence from the date of marriage to the date of final separation

Refer to Appendix:

752A Petition for Declaration of Nullity - Lack of Form