

**METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL OF ATLANTA**  
**AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

1. I understand that, if the Tribunal accepts my case for consideration, it cannot and does not guarantee that an Affirmative decision will be given in the case.
2. I understand that the Tribunal cannot ever guarantee that a case will be concluded by a certain date. As such, **I agree to wait until I receive a final decision in writing from the Tribunal before I set a definite date for a new marriage in the Catholic Church or for convalidation of an existing marriage.**
3. I understand and accept that Church law obligates the Tribunal to contact my former spouse and present him or her with the opportunity to participate in the process. Therefore, I acknowledge that I must provide the Tribunal with the full current address of my former spouse. All reasonable efforts to locate my former spouse must be exhausted to the satisfaction of the Tribunal. The requirement of contacting my former spouse may be omitted only in the most extreme circumstances, and only then with the approval of the Judicial Vicar.
4. I understand that I must contact my witnesses personally to inform them that I have started this case. I will ask my witnesses to respond to the Tribunal.
5. I understand that the Metropolitan Tribunal of Atlanta, in the investigation of the case, may employ the services of a court expert or other expert witness and I hereby authorize the Tribunal to disclose complete information concerning my case to such a professional for case review. Upon completion of the case, I also authorize the Tribunal to release information regarding the case to a psychological expert, counselor, priest, or deacon for follow-up counseling as well as for pre-marital preparation presently or in the future. It is understood that otherwise all contents of this investigation will be kept confidential, reserved exclusively to the parties to the case and to the staff of the Tribunal, according to the canon law of the Roman Catholic Church.
6. In order to assist the Tribunal to maintain an atmosphere of candor and openness in testimony and in recognition of the purely spiritual and religious nature of these proceedings, I voluntarily waive now and in the future any rights under civil law to subpoena the Acts of the case in judicial discovery. This waiver is given without reservation, condition or limit of time.
7. I understand that the Tribunal's presiding judge will issue a decree binding all parties in this case to confidentiality. Accordingly, I agree to keep confidential and secret any information that I shall learn in the course of the proceeding because all testimony in this case is given for the possible ecclesiastical annulment of my marriage; and, because my interest is solely to present my case to the Tribunal, I promise not to use information that I may learn through the case in any other forum or for any other purpose.
8. I understand that no fees will be charged for any cases submitted to the Metropolitan Tribunal of Atlanta. However I acknowledge that a fee will be assessed in a case transmitted to Rome on appeal and that the party who initiates the appeal will be responsible for the fee.

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Signature of Petitioner:

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Date:

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Signature of Witness: