



LACK OF FORM PETITION

Explanation and Instructions

What is Canonical Form?

Baptized Roman Catholics or baptized members of an Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church *sui iuris* (or those received into the Church) are required by Church law to follow what is known as canonical form. For Roman Catholics, the marriage must take place in the presence of a Catholic minister (bishop/priest/deacon), in the presence of two witnesses and normally in a Catholic church. For members of an Eastern Church, *sui iuris*, the marriage is required to also receive the Nuptial Blessing to be valid. These laws must be followed if one or both of the parties are baptized Catholic.

In some circumstances the Church may grant a dispensation (a form of permission) from this requirement. Dispensations are granted by the local Ordinary (Bishop) and are processed through the Chancery.

What Information Do I Need To Provide?

You will first start by completing the Lack of Form Petition issued by the Archdiocese of Louisville. Below is a step-by-step explanation of the form itself. In addition to the completed form you will need a copy of your baptismal record (your parish priest/deacon/associate can help you with this), a copy of your civil marriage license, and a copy of any civil divorce, dissolution or annulment decree that has been granted.

The Lack of Form Petition

Below is a step-by-step instruction for completing the Lack of Form Petition.

- (1) In the first part of the form please list all requested information on the parties to the marriage.
If you are the person filing the Petition you will list your information under the "Petitioner" heading.
- (2) List your current religion or ecclesial community, the date of your baptism and the place where your baptism took place. Please note, if you were received into the Church (through RCIA or other rite) use that date as the date of your baptism and note "received" in the box.
- (3) Indicate the date of the marriage and who presided or witnessed it (civil official, non-Catholic minister, etc).
- (4) Indicate the place where the marriage took place and the city/state where it occurred.
- (5) List the date and issuing authority if you have received a civil divorce from this marriage.
- (6) List the date of any dissolution or annulment you may have received and the (arch)diocese that issued it.

DO NOT check any items in the box below the information section. This will be completed by your parish contact.

Questions or Additional Information

If you have any questions or need additional information please first contact your parish pastor, deacon or other parish minister. You may also contact the Tribunal if you desire using the contact information below.

Archdiocese of Louisville
Metropolitan Tribunal
(502) 585-3291
tribunal@archlou.org