

## YOUR HELP CAN MAKE THE ANNULMENT PROCESS FASTER

While the average case takes approximately 12 months to process, some cases are completed more quickly. This is due to the fact that some cases are simpler than others, especially when they are prepared more completely and efficiently. This is especially true in cases where the testimony is clear and thorough without being excessive or superfluous. This is also true in cases where the witnesses are able to provide significant useful information about the parties and their relationship. This is also true in cases where all documents are in order and submitted on time and where the witnesses respond immediately to provide their testimony.

In the majority of cases, Tribunal personnel have little control over the procedural speed of the cases. Many times the pace depends on the will and co-operation of the parties involved. Much of the process depends on the co-operation of all parties with the Tribunal and timely conformance to the requirements of the process. In addition, the Tribunal has hundreds of cases to deal with at once and, therefore, each case will wait – at times - for its turn in the procedural steps of the process.

The following is some advice that can help to accelerate the process:

1. A case cannot proceed to the following step should any documents, required information or even payments be missing. Having nothing missing will help the case move at the fastest possible pace.
2. The Tribunal should be notified of any address or telephone change of any party involved in the case. This includes the witnesses. The Tribunal staff tends to spend a lot of valuable time trying to find out this information, when it could easily be provided by the petitioner and/or other involved parties that are aware of the change. Should you be aware of any change, please advise the Tribunal office, in writing, as soon as possible.
3. Once you have been notified that your case has been accepted by the Tribunal, arrangements for your payment must be made before the process may continue any further. The fees represented in the payment are actually less than half of the actual cost of processing a case. The rest of the cost is covered by subsidies from the Diocese of Colorado Springs. As a result, we expect that you acknowledge this duty through your payment. Should there be a change in your financial situation that would influence your payment plans, then please notify the Tribunal as soon as possible. Please note, that if you have a few delayed payments your case may be put on hold until the payments have been made or until you have contacted the Tribunal.
4. We have seen from experience that the process is accelerated further if the petitioner or interested parties advise their witnesses that the Tribunal will be contacting them for the purpose of scheduling face-to-face interviews with them. We do not ask you to meet face to face with your ex-spouse. If the need arises, however, you can make contact through other means such as by letter, email, or telephone. Once your case has been accepted, please make sure your witnesses and/or your Advocate make appointments with the Tribunal so that all of the necessary judicial examinations can occur in a timely manner. Your Advocate may be present in the judicial examination of anyone providing testimony.

Please do everything on your part to help us speed up the process of your case.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**There is no guarantee that a case will obtain an affirmative decision.** Therefore, there should not be any reservations or plans for any dates such as future weddings or RCIA completion with any parish until the affirmative sentence has been communicated in the form of the formal Decree of Nullity. **The Diocesan Tribunal of Colorado Springs is not responsible for promises, guarantees, or commitments made by others or for others and it is not bound by any such promises, guarantees or commitments.**