

**Dissolution of Marriage by  
Virtue of the  
Pauline Privilege**

**Rev. Mark R. Richards, JCL**

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**The Pauline Privilege**

Canon 1143

§1 A marriage entered into by two non-baptized persons is dissolved by means of the Pauline Privilege in favor of the faith of a party who has received baptism by the very fact that a new marriage is contracted by the party who has been baptized.

§2 The non-baptized party is considered to have departed if he or she does not wish to cohabit in peace without insult to the Creator.



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**What does it mean?**

- It is the dissolution of a natural marriage bond between two unbaptized people.
- The marriage is dissolved by the act of consent entering the new marriage after the person is baptized.
- The new marriage dissolves the first natural bond.



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**The Pauline Privilege can be Invoked**

If the Tribunal can determine the following:

- Petitioner desires or has received Christian baptism and wishes to enter marriage in the Catholic Church.
- Both parties were not baptized prior to, nor throughout, their common life.
- Respondent remains unbaptized and does not intend to be baptized.

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**What Is Required**

- Pauline Privilege Application
- Civil Marriage License and Certificate
- Notice of Entry of Judgment and Final Judgment of Divorce
- \$175 fee
- If Petitioner is already baptized, a recently-issued (within 6 months) baptismal certificate with notations

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**The Pauline Privilege Application**

- Download the most recent version on the Tribunal website  
<https://www.scd.org/tribunal/annulment-information-and-forms>

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### License and Certificate of Marriage

- Submit original certified marriage license and certificate
- For all marriages in Nevada, you need to request the marriage certificate and the affidavit of application for marriage license



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### Notice of Entry of Judgment and Final Judgment of Divorce

- Only submit original/certified court documents
- These documents should include:
  - Names of Petitioner and Respondent
  - Final date of divorce
  - Signature or stamp of the judge
  - Wording: “Marital status is terminated and the parties are restored to the status of unmarried persons”
  - Original court seal

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### Baptismal Certificate

- If Petitioner is baptized, the baptismal certificate is required and must be recently issued within the last six months
- Notations should be included; if there are no notations it must state: “No notations”

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### Conditions for a Pauline

Requirements:

- Petitioner must provide testimony testifying to his/her non-baptized status
- Two witnesses for the Petitioner
- Respondent must be willing to testify to his/her non-baptized status
- Two witnesses for the Respondent

\*Only the Bishop (or his delegate) can dispense from interpellations when there are indisputable proofs that the Respondent is not and does not intend to be baptized.

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### Best Witnesses

- The best witnesses for a Pauline Privilege are those who can testify to the non-baptism of each.

• Family Members:

- Parents
- Grandparents
- Aunt/Uncle
- Older Siblings



\*If the non-baptism of each party cannot be proven, the case will be processed as a Formal Case (Form C).

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### Privilege Granted

- If the privilege is granted and the Petitioner is already in a civil marriage, then the baptism must precede marriage in the Church.
- The decree is sent to the Petitioner and a copy to the Parish Advocate.
- Parish Advocate sends a copy of the baptism and marriage certificates to the Tribunal.

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**REMEMBER!**

- DO NOT SET A WEDDING DATE OR MAKE PROMISES!!!

No date or wedding plans for future marriage may be set until the case has been completed and the decision is communicated by the Tribunal.



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**BE SURE....**

- That you, the Parish Advocate, submit the COMPLETED application and submit original documents to the Tribunal.



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