

***Multiple Marriages,
One Petitioner***

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Binder Tab 4, p. 1

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Getting Started

Ask the Petitioner to tell you his/her story — briefly.

Find out:

- How many marriages?
- Are all previous spouses still alive?
- What was the baptismal status of the Petitioner and each spouse — at the time of marriage and throughout the marriage?
- What type of marriage was each — civil, religious, Catholic?
- If the previous spouse is alive, will he/she participate?

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**Getting Started
(continued)**

- Were any of these marriages addressed by a Tribunal? If yes, what was the outcome? Get a copy of the final decree.
- Let the Petitioner know that the marriages will be addressed in order.
- The Petitioner may decide to submit one marriage at a time instead of all at the same time.
- Fees are on a sliding scale: \$600 for first marriage, then \$450 for each (Formal cases). Contact Cheryl if fees pose a problem for the Petitioner. No one is turned away due to lack of funds.

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**Multiple Marriages =
Lots of Paperwork**

- Each marriage must be presented to the Tribunal as a separate case. Each case has its own requirements.
- Let the Petitioner know what paperwork is needed for each marriage. Keep a separate folder for each marriage, with names of the parties and which marriage (#1, #2, etc.).
- **Baptismal certificate:** If Petitioner is Catholic, submit an original, recently issued (within 6 months) certificate with marriage #1. Submit a copy with each of the other cases submitted, with a note saying the original was submitted with marriage #1.

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**Multiple Marriages –
How the Process Works**

- We address the marriages in order.
- One exception might be in the case of a Lack of Form. If a Lack of Form is one of the marriages, it can be processed immediately. The final decree will be held unless or until all the other marriages have been decided.
- Formal cases move through the steps – Acceptance and Citation of Parties, Joinder and Instruction (including Expert Witness if required). Then marriage #1 goes to Publication of the Acts. The other marriage cases – if finished with Instruction – are placed “on deck” and wait until the first marriage is decided.

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**How the Process Works
(continued)**

- Once the first marriage has been decided in the affirmative and the final decrees are issued, the next marriage moves to Publication of the Acts and continues through the process.
- If any of the marriages are decided in the negative, the Petitioner may appeal. If the final decision is negative, the rest of the cases are not addressed, since the outcomes would not change the fact that the Petitioner is not free to marry because the one marriage was decided in the negative.

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