



Meeting #1 • If you do not know the Petitioner, spend a few minutes getting to know him/her. • What is the Petitioner looking for? • Ask the Petitioner to tell you his/her story. • Cet some initial information/Ask these questions: • Where were you married (specifically)? • Date of marriage? If civil, was marriage convalidated? If yes, when and where? • Is your former spouse Catholic? If no, was your former spouse baptized? If yes, when and into which denomination?

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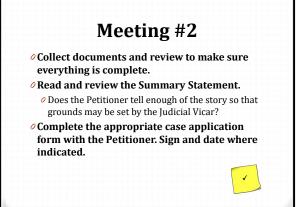
• Explain/Talk about:

- ✓ Why the Church gets involved in marriage cases of non-Catholics, civil marriages, etc.
- ✓ What is meant by "Marriage enjoys the favor of the law."
- ✓What a declaration of nullity is
- What the Petitioner can expect in the process:
 - That the burden of proof is on the Petitioner to prove the case
 - ✓ To be informed of what is happening each step of the process
 - ✓ To tell their story in detail by responding to a questionnaire or personal interview

What Petitioner should bring to second meeting:

- ✓ Baptism certificate, issued within 6 months, with notations
- ✓ Marriage license (original, certified)
- ✓ Divorce decree Notice of Entry of Judgment <u>and</u> Judgment (original, certified)
- Summary Statement (signed and dated)
- Deposit fee of \$150 for Formal case (or full fee for other types of cases)
- List of witnesses (names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses)
- Review checklist for the particular type of case to be sure Petitioner knows what documents to bring.

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 Ask the Petitioner to talk with his/her witnesses and let them know they will be contacted by the Tribunal.

- Remind witnesses that this is not about assigning fault to one party or the other.
- Ask witnesses to be truthful, answer questions as completely as possible, and to return their questionnaire within the timeframe given.
- Give their witnesses "permission" to tell the story from their perspective, without worry of hurt feelings, etc.

 Encourage the Petitioner to call you with his/her questions and concerns.

O Write your Advocate's Brief to submit with the case paperwork. (See Binder Tab 1, p. 11.)

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