#### *Denveriensis*

#### *Nullitatis Matrimonii*

#### PET Maiden Name – RESP Maiden Name

#### LIBELLUS

(Petition for the Declaration of Marriage Nullity)

**I. THE FACTS**

1. I, [Petitioner Maiden Name], a [baptismal status, religion ex. baptized Catholic], born [Date of Birth; under the direction of my Advocate, declare the following before the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Denver regarding my marriage with [Respondent Name], a [baptismal status, religion ex. baptized Catholic], born on [Date of Birth], and who is domiciled in [City, State, Zip].

**In this Section include a short description about when and how they married, time of engagement and if they cohabitated or not and why. Note specific information important for proposed ground.**

2**.** I entered canonical marriage [type of Marriage] with [Petitioner Name] at[ Church/Place of Marriage] in [City, State, Zip]., on [Date]. [EXAMPLE: We dated about one year and were engaged for about that long, during which time we cohabitated for about one year. This cohabitation was a deliberate and conscious decision so that I could get to know her and this supported my decision to marry].

**In this Section include some brief information on family of origin on the PET and RESP, note differences between families. Note specific information important for proposed ground.** 3.[EXAMPLE: I was raised in a family of four which included my parents and two siblings. Monica was raised in a family of four which included her parents and a sister. She was raised and schooled in France before the family moved to Southern California. There was some turmoil and dysfunction in the family history. The main difference between our families of origin is that marriage and fidelity is valued differently.

**In this Section please include some brief information on how they met, their married life and problems leading to divorce. Note also some specific information important for proposed ground.**

4. [EXAMPLE: We met when I was 24 and the Respondent was 26 while taking a business class together during graduate schooling. The relationship was interrupted after about eight months of dating, due to the matriarchal tendencies I noticed in her family but we continued after several months and I realized I was in love with her. Despite the warning signs of her matriarchal tendencies and her financial insolvency, I decided to proceed to marriage. We had a financial pre-nuptial agreement due to the Respondent’s expressed desire for a “safety net” should the marriage fail. After we married, the problems centered on finances, anger, love and practice of religion. We entered into marital counseling to try to overcome these problems. I intended for this to be a lifelong union, but the Respondent expressed her opinion that a marriage should end should either party be unhappy. As regards fidelity, she ultimately changed from being a monogamous partner, to choosing another person to invest her time with, with complete disregard to morality. I abhor the destruction and infidelity she caused through the divorce. I have learned to forgive the person whom I loved more than any other, despite her expressed desire for a divorce at the end.]

**II. *IN IURE***

 **In this Section include specific grounds applicable to this case; list attached.**

5.The following canons are applicable to the present case:

a) [EXAMPLE: Canon 1056, which reminds us that one of the essential properties of marriage is indissolubility, without which it would not be a true marriage.

b) Canon 1101, §2 affirms that the person who celebrates marriage having excluded with a positive act of the will the property of indissolubility does so invalidly.

c) This Tribunal is competent in accord with c. 1673, §1, since this is the place where the marriage was celebrated.]

**III. *IN FACTO***

**In this Section offer a couple of points that support the ground.**

6.Further, in accord with c. 1504, 2, I have agreed to present those elements of proof that will support my contention that this marriage is invalid, which includes witnesses as noted on the included witness list. [Example: I propose that the remote *causa simulandi* is found in the values she received in her family upbringing where marital indissolubility was not valued or taught; the proximate *causa simulandi* is found in the fact that she engaged in infidelity before and after the wedding; the *causa contrahendi* is found in her desire to maintain normal appearances, but her immoral behavior during the marriage and her unwillingness to change her behavior, I believe, speaks tomes. These facts, along with her premarital statement that divorce is acceptable, her insistence on a prenuptial agreement and her decision to divorce me despite my wishes, all indicate her exclusion of indissolubility at the time of the wedding].

7. [Only if applicable] I also have documentary proof in the form of personal letters written by the Respondent before the marriage.

***Wherefore***

I, [PET name], now turn to this Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Denver and asks that this marriage with [RESP name] be declared null and invalid due to [Example: the exclusion of the indissolubility of marriage, c. 1101, §2 [Ground], on the part of the Respondent.]

14 April 2014 [Date]

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[PET MaidenName]

Petitioner