TRIAL PROCESS FOR MARRIAGE CASES

INTRODUCTION

1. PQ received – Formal Paperwork mailed
2. Presentation of Petition
   - Paperwork complete
   - Competence Confirmed
   - Grounds Confirmed and / or Proposed
   - Judicial Expenses paid or waived
3. Notification of Parties

CONTESTATIO LITIS (JOINDER)

4. Formulation of Doubt – Grounds to be investigated are confirmed
   - Respondent is cited or declared absent

INVESTIGATION (PROOFS/DOCUMENTS)

5. Citation of witnesses
6. Additional witnesses if necessary
7. Interrogation of Petitioner and Respondent (if participating)
8. Citation of Court Appointed Expert when required.
9. Evaluation of Evidence & possible change of grounds

PUBLICATION

10. Petitioner, Respondent and Advocate are invited to the Tribunal to review evidence and provide a statement or rebuttal. It is not mandatory, but advisable.

CONCLUSION

11. The Judge has concluded that there is sufficient evidence to adjudicate the case. The investigation is closed to any further evidence.

DEFENSE

12. Defender of the Bond of marriage reviews the case and provides a report defending the marriage.

PUBLICATION OF DECISION

13. The Judge writes the decision (sentence) as Affirmative or Negative and the parties are notified and have 15 days to request an appeal.
    - Right to review the Sentence
    - Right to appeal the Sentence

CHALLENGE OF SENTENCE

Full Appeal (Philadelphia or Roman Rota)

EXECUTION OF SENTENCE

14. If Affirmative – the Decree of Declaration of Nullity is sent to the parties and to the Advocate
    - Restrictions for new marriage possible.
    - Vetitum or Monitum

REGISTER

Recording of Nullity sent to Church of Baptism and Church of Marriage

Archdiocese of Denver
Metropolitan Tribunal
Office of Canonical Affairs