

Cheat Sheet - Applying for an Ecclesiastical Divorce

Step 1 Parish priest and petitioner meet in person to begin process for applying for an ecclesiastical divorce. Priest reviews and compiles all documents necessary to petition for divorce.

Items required, to be submitted to the Registry Department, for filing an ecclesiastical divorce application:

- **Certified Civil Divorce Papers** – The priest is to see the *original* and then a copy of the original is to be made with the original being returned to the petitioner - *photo copy*
- **Ecclesiastical Marriage Certificate or Transcript**- *original only*
- **Petition of the Applicant** - stating reason for divorce application – *original only*
- **Statement of the Priest** – who has examined the case and his recommendation – *original only*
- **Letter of No Objection** – if applicable, a notarized letter from the respondent stating she/ he will not attend and has no objection to, the divorce proceedings– *original only*
- **Most Recent Address of Respondent**– for notification. In the event the address is unavailable an announcement in two daily newspapers is to be placed– *photo copy*
- **\$ 250 Check or Money Order** -The divorce decree is issued to the petitioner, the respondent may request her/his original decree through letter of their parish priest and by paying a \$250 fee – *original only*

Step 2 Once the priest submits all documents required to petition for an ecclesiastical divorce, the couple will be summoned to appear before the Spiritual Court which will hear the case.