

## FORMAL ANNULMENT PROCESS TIMELINE

1. **Formal Packet** received from Petitioner
2. **Admission of Libellus** by Judge  
Court Determines **Competence**
  - a) Place of **Contract**
  - b) **Domicile** of the Petitioner or the Respondent
  - c) Place where most of the **proofs** can be gathered
3. **Libellus sent to Defender & Respondent** (15 working days for response)
  - a) Response Form
  - b) Questionnaire sent to Respondent if requested (30 working days for response)
4. **Acceptance Letter** to Petitioner to proceed with the Formal Petition combined with the Joinder
5. **Joinder of the Issue**
  - a) Determine if ordinary or briefer process
  - b) Grounds set by Judge
  - c) Personnel of Court
6. **Proofs Gathered** (30 working days for responses)
  - a) Witness questionnaires sent to Petitioner or Respondent to be mailed to their witnesses.
  - b) Expert witness or evaluation gathered if necessary
7. Letters **Publishing Acts** (investigation phase of case now complete) (10 working days for response) At this time the parties may request to see the *Acts (testimonies in the case)*
  - a) Review Policy
  - b) Waive the time frame
8. The Acts are sent to the **Defender of the Bond** (usually 15 working days)
9. **Judgment** (usually one week)
10. The parties are notified of the decision by restricted mail and the Defender of the Bond is notified by e-mail. The parties or the Defender may **appeal** the decision within fifteen (15) working days.
11. The parties notified of no appeal and thus the decision is **final**.
12. If one appeals, the case is sent to the **Second Instance Court** in Portland, Oregon or it can be appealed to **Rome**. Time frame is a year or more.
13. As soon as the sentence becomes effective, the parish of marriage and baptisms is **notified**.

*Mission Statement*

*To protect the rights and dignity of each person and foster healing and spiritual growth through the compassionate and just application of Church law in the ministry of serving God's people.*