

Grounds for Marriage Annulment in the Catholic Church

- **Insufficient use of reason (Canon 1095.1)** The individual did not know what was happening during the marriage ceremony because of insanity, mental illness, or a lack of consciousness.
- **Lack of Due Discretion (Canon 1095.2)** The individual was affected by some serious circumstances or factors that made you unable to judge or evaluate either the decision to marry or the ability to create a true marital relationship.
- **Psychic-natured incapacity to assume marital obligations (Canon 1095.3)** The individual, at the time of consent, was unable to fulfill the obligations of marriage because of a serious psychological disorder or other condition.
- **Ignorance about the nature of marriage (Canon 1096.1)** The individual did not know that marriage is a permanent relationship between a man and a woman ordered toward the procreation of offspring by means of some sexual cooperation.
- **Error of person (Canon 1097.1)** The individual intended to marry a specific individual who was not the individual with whom marriage was celebrated. (For example, mail order brides; otherwise, this rarely occurs in the United States.)
- **Error about a quality of a person (Canon 1097.2)** The individual intended to marry someone who either possessed or did not possess a certain quality, e.g., social status, marital status, education, religious conviction, freedom from disease, or arrest record. That quality must have been directly and principally intended.
- **Fraud (Canon 1098)** The individual was intentionally deceived about the presence or absence of a quality in the other. The reason for this deception was to obtain consent to marriage.
- **Total willful exclusion of marriage (Canon 1101.2)** The individual did not intend to contract marriage as the law of the Catholic Church understands marriage. Rather, the ceremony was observed solely as a means of obtaining something other than marriage itself, e.g., to obtain legal status in the country or to legitimize a child.
- **Willful exclusion of children (Canon 1101.2)** The individual married intending, either explicitly or implicitly, to deny the other's right to sexual acts open to procreation.
- **Willful exclusion of marital fidelity (Canon 1101)** The individual married intending, either explicitly or implicitly, not to remain faithful.
- **Willful exclusion of marital permanence (Canon 1101.2)** The individual married intending, either explicitly or implicitly, not to create a permanent relationship, retaining an option to divorce.
- **Future condition (Canon 1102.2)** The individual attached a future condition to his or her decision to marry, e.g., you will complete your education, your income will be at a certain level, you will remain in this area.
- **Past condition (Canon 1102.2)** The individual attached a past condition to his or her decision to marry and that condition did not exist; e.g., I will marry you provided that you have never been married before, I will marry you provided that you have graduated from college.
- **Present condition (Canon 1102.2)** The individual attached a present condition to his or her decision to marry and that condition did not exist, e.g., I will marry you provided you don't have any debt.
- **Force (Canon 1103)** The individual married because of an external physical or moral force that could not be resisted.
- **Fear (Canon 1103)** The individual chose to marry because of fear that was grave and inescapable and was caused by an outside source.
- **Error regarding marital unity that determined the will (Canon 1099)** The individual married believing that marriage was not necessarily an exclusive relationship.
- **Error regarding marital indissolubility that determined the will (Canon 1099)** The individual married believing that civil law had the power to dissolve marriage and that remarriage was acceptable after civil divorce.
- **Error regarding marital sacramental dignity that determined the will (Canon 1099)** The individual married believing that marriage is not a religious or sacred relationship but merely a civil contract or arrangement.
- **Lack of new consent during convalidation (Canon 1160)** After a civil marriage, the individual participated in a Catholic ceremony and the individual believed that (1) they were already married, (2) the Catholic ceremony was merely a blessing, and (3) the consent given during the Catholic ceremony had no real effect.