TRIBUNAL
DIOCESE OF BUFFALO

GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL AND MARITAL HISTORY

Please follow these guidelines and give examples where possible. Please note that the areas prior to marriage are especially important.

A. BACKGROUND OF EACH PARTY:

1. For myself:

   Describe the character of each parent and your estimate of who was the dominant one in the home; your relationship with your parents, brothers and sisters; account of school life and grades; religious practices; ease of making and keeping friends; medical history; unusual fears in childhood or later; history of dating and whether any earlier, serious romances existed and, if so, why they were terminated; history or attitude towards sex and any problems with it; long-range goals or did you live only for the moment; work record including dependability, responsibility; save money regularly or spend it foolishly; an evaluation of strong and weak areas of own personality, inferiority complex, sensitive to the needs of others, nervous, quick-tempered, moody, jealous, selfish, ungrateful, lie habitually; was conduct erratic and unpredictable, often outlandish and fantastic, lack good judgment in every day situations.

2. For former spouse:

   Please answer the same questions from your knowledge and understanding.

B. THE COURTSHIP:

   Detail length; how you met; frequency and kinds of dates; source of attraction; any problems in dating; whether relationship ever ended and why; how topic of marriage arose; reaction of each family to wedding plans; unusual pressure to marry; attitude and use of sex during the courtship; any reluctance to marry; attitude of each to fidelity, permanence of marriage, to divorce and to children.

C. WEDDING AND HONEYMOON:

   Attitude of each at church and reception; any unusual incidents on the wedding day; was the honeymoon a pleasant experience; was the marriage consummated? If not, why?

D. MARRIED LIFE:

   Length of marriage; attitude of each to work and responsibilities; attitude toward children; physical or emotional mistreatment; role parents played in marriage; any abuse of money, alcohol and gambling; when did problems arise and over what; detail all separations – cause, length and reconciliation.

E. PSYCHIATRIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL OR COUNSELING THERAPY:

   Give the names and addresses of psychiatrists, approximate dates, number of sessions and diagnosis. If either party had counseling of any sort, please do the same.