

# Diocese of Dallas



**TRIBUNAL**  
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Date: August 9, 2011  
Re: Marriage Readiness Assessors  
To: All Cleric and Lay Ministers preparing couples for marriage  
From: Margaret Gillett, Assessor  
(214) 379-2840

In order to enhance our service to those preparing for marriage, we have revised, slightly, our way of dealing with stipulations placed on Petitioners and Respondents when affirmative nullity decisions are rendered. This new procedure will enable you to select the Assessor you consider most suitable for the couple you are preparing.

Henceforth, whenever you are preparing a person to marry on whom a *monitum* or *vetitum* has been placed by the Dallas Tribunal:

- Locate a Marriage Readiness Assessor for availability (see attached list)
- Assist the Petitioner or Respondent to complete the enclosed release
- Send the completed release to me
- Instruct the Petitioner or Respondent to watch for a letter from the Tribunal. The letter will instruct the person to make an appointment with the designated Marriage Readiness Assessor. Make sure the party understands that he/she is not to attempt to make an appointment with the Assessor until after receiving the letter from the Tribunal directing her/him to do so.

We then will send a copy of the decision to the selected Marriage Readiness Assessor. Once we receive an evaluation from the Assessor, we will consider lifting the stipulations.

Reminder:

- Verify that all previous marriages, whether under the auspices of the Catholic Church or not, have been reviewed and, if necessary, declared invalid before setting any wedding date.
- Assist the party to complete a release for each case processed for either party in the Diocese of Dallas.
- Contact directly the Judge in the case for any case adjudicated in another tribunal to follow that Diocese's procedure to get a copy of the decision into the hands of the selected Marriage Readiness Assessor.

If you need to consult with me in this regard, of course, feel free to call. And feel free to call about any questions you may have concerning the preparation of your people for marriage in the Church.