



**Clerical Council for Family Affairs**  
**Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate**  
**Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada**

**C A S E #    \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_**  
**R E L E A S E   A N D   W A I V E R**

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I \_\_\_\_\_ (Applicant) hereby appear willingly and without duress, agree to respond to any claims and/or allegations raised against me and to provide any additional information, upon request, to the Clerical Council for Family Affairs of the Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) with respect to the case filed by me.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Respondent) hereby appear willingly and without duress, agree to respond to any claims and/or allegations raised against me and to provide any additional information, upon request, to the Clerical Council for Family Affairs of the Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) with respect to the case filed by my spouse.

I acknowledge and understand that all decisions of the Council can be appealed to the Regional Clerical Council for Family Affairs – Americas District currently located in the United States of America. I further acknowledge and consent that the Council may, at its sole discretion share all or parts of the documentation provided and any material evidence disclosed by either party, with the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate’s Regional Clerical Council for Family Affairs – Americas District, for the sole purpose of facilitating and supporting the Appeals process.

I further agree to forever discharge, save harmless, and indemnify the Coptic Orthodox Church/Patriarchate, its presiding Pope and Patriarch, its Dioceses worldwide, its Metropolitans, its Bishops, its Clerical Councils worldwide including the Clerical Council for Family Affairs of the Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada, its presiding Metropolitan/Bishop, Hegumen(s), priests, clergy, employees, agents, counselors, assignees, and volunteers from any and all claims of action or damages of any kind arising from, or in any way connected to the release or use of any information or records pursuant to this Acknowledgement, Authorization and Release/Waiver or to the initial decision(s) rendered in my case and/or any decisions resulting from an Appeal.

I fully acknowledge that information received in connection with the matter from one party cannot necessarily be treated as confidential from the other party. I fully consent to the terms and conditions of the Council and waive any and all rights to obtain and/or use the case file and all related documents, recordings and notes, which are in the sole possession of the Council. The Council retains all files in strict and full confidentiality. In accordance with its sacred obligation of confidentiality and pursuant to the by-laws of the Coptic Orthodox Church, the Clerical Council shall not disclose any of the aforesaid documentation and/or evidence to any administrative tribunal or court of law, unless required by law.

If the Council issues an Ecclesiastical Marriage Permit (“EMP”) or Ecclesiastical Annulment (“EA”), thereby allowing me to remarry in the Coptic Orthodox Church, I acknowledge and understand that neither the EMP nor the EA may be recognized or enforceable in any other jurisdiction outside of Canada.

I further acknowledge and understand that the Council reserves the right to disclose cause(s) of the Ecclesiastical Annulment or divorce to my future/[contemplated] fiancé. I further agree to forever discharge, save harmless, and indemnify the Coptic Orthodox Church/Patriarchate, its presiding Pope and Patriarch, its Dioceses worldwide, its Metropolitans, its Bishops, its Clerical Councils worldwide, including the Clerical Council for Family Affairs of the Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada, its presiding Metropolitan/Bishop, Hegumen(s), priests, clergy, employees, agents, counselors, assignees, and volunteers from any and all claims of action or damages of any kind arising from, or in any way connected to this disclosure.

I further agree to forever discharge, save harmless, and indemnify the Coptic Orthodox Church/Patriarchate, its presiding Pope and Patriarch, its Dioceses worldwide, its Metropolitans, its Bishops, its Clerical Councils worldwide, including the Clerical Council for Family Affairs of the Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada, its presiding Metropolitan/Bishop, Hegumen(s), priests, clergy, employees, agents, counselors, assignees, and volunteers from any responsibility and/or liability whatsoever in connection with the separation and/or divorce proceedings and with any damages and/or losses that I may suffer if any written and/or verbal agreement into which I may enter with my spouse and/or the Clerical Council, is not upheld in a Court or varied by a Court in the future, or if I fail(ed) to protect my legal rights in any way.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AUTHORIZATION AND DIRECTION**

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I hereby authorize the Council to disclose and discuss all or part of the information and documents, which I voluntarily submitted in my Application or during the course of the assessment, to my spouse, as named and identified in his or her Application, to the Coptic Orthodox Priests, Members of the Council and to other Coptic Orthodox diocesan Clerical Councils as the Council deems necessary in order to determine the Applicant's eligibility or ineligibility for a remarriage permit or ecclesiastical annulment.

I acknowledge and understand that it is not the function, role or responsibility of the Council to provide legal advice. Members of the Council cannot act as advocates for any party to the Application for an ecclesiastical marriage permit and/or an ecclesiastical annulment. I understand that Members of the Council shall remain at all times during the process: wholly independent, impartial and professional.

I further acknowledge and understand that Members of the Council are not under any legal or fiduciary obligation to respond to any correspondence, from legal counsel (or their employees, clerks, agents, affiliates etc.) representing either party of the case or the child(ren). I further acknowledge that members of the Council may refuse to tender evidence, provide testimony and/or act as a witness during the course of any legal proceedings.

I fully acknowledge and understand that the Council has a vested interest in preserving and protecting the best interests of any child(ren), whose parents may be seeking an ecclesiastical marriage permit or ecclesiastical annulment. With exception to extenuating circumstances, the child(ren), whether of the current marriage or previous marriage, is/are not permitted to provide written and/or verbal statements, testimony or any form of evidence to the Council unless the Council, in its sole discretion, deems such information and/or evidence absolutely necessary.

I acknowledge and understand that I am required to fully cooperate with the Council in order to facilitate the Application process and provide any documentation, upon request. More specifically, should there be a

Recognizance of Bail, Restraining Order and/or Adult Probation Order or any court issued document in place which prohibits one or both parties from coming within a certain distance of the other or restricts any direct or indirect contact and/or communication between the parties and/or their child(ren), same shall be provided forthwith to the Council, prior to the first virtual or ‘in person’ meeting.

I further acknowledge and understand that members of the Council shall inform the parties and any other persons who accompany a party to a meeting with the Council of the confidential nature of the meeting. Any and all information, written or verbal, in connection with the file shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed to any legal representative or non-party except as follows:

- a) with both parties’ written consent;
- b) when ordered to do so by law;
- c) when the information/documentation discloses an actual or potential threat to human life;
- d) in respect of any report, summary or decision that is required to be prepared by the Clerical Council;

I agree not to contact or communicate with any individual Member of the Clerical Council regarding my case, except through the email provided by the Council: [mvwclericalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mvwclericalcouncil@gmail.com)

I understand that all decisions of the Council can be appealed to the Regional Clerical Council for Family Affairs – Americas District ([www.ccffaa.org](http://www.ccffaa.org)) within forty (40) days as will be indicated in the decision letter that will be issued at the conclusion of the assessment.

I acknowledge and agree that I am responsible for providing the Council with any updates regarding my contact information and that of my spouse, including but not necessarily limited to residential/business addresses, telephone/fax numbers and email addresses. I am fully responsible for regularly checking my email messages for any communication from the Council. If my contact information changes during the course of the assessment, it is my sole responsibility to immediately update my contact information with the Council. I further acknowledge that non-receipt of the Council’s decision due to failure to provide the Council with my updated contact information shall not warrant an extension to appeal the Council’s decision beyond the stipulated limitation period of forty (40) days.

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Applicant’s Name	Applicant’s Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Council Member’s Name	Council Member’s Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Respondent’s Name	Respondent’s Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Council Member’s Name	Council Member’s Signature	Date