

## GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE

*On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following. Please respond to the questions pertinent to your case. If a question is not appropriate to your situation, omit it. Please avoid yes and no answers. We are not asking you to speak badly about your former spouse, but only to describe, as honestly as you can, the relationship that was your marriage. Please sign and date each page of your testimony.*

Name:

What is your occupation or profession?

Please describe in detail your own family background and early life. *(Please address the following questions in your narrative.)*

- How many siblings did you have? What order were you in birth?
- How did you get along with your parents and other family members?
- What religion did you profess? Did your family practice their faith? How did religion influence your beliefs and behavior?
- Were there any alcohol or drug problems in your home?
- Were there any financial problems or chronic illnesses at home?
- Is there any history of mental illness (i.e. depression, bi-polar disorder, etc) or emotional problems in your family?
- Describe how your parents saw marriage.
- Is there a history of divorce in your family?
- Were you ever in trouble with the law?
- How did you get along in school? How far did you go?
- Were there any serious or traumatic events in your growing up years that affected you in any way?
- Was there any verbal, physical or sexual abuse in your growing-up years? Please explain clearly.
- Were your childhood and adolescence happy periods? Why or why not?
- How old were you when you started dating? Describe your dating experience prior to meeting and dating your former spouse.

Please describe in detail your former spouse's family background and early life. *(Please address the following questions in your narrative.)*

- How many siblings did your former spouse have? What order was your former spouse in birth?
- How did your former spouse get along with their parents and other family members?
- What religion did your former spouse profess? Did your former spouse's family practice their faith? How did religion influence your former spouse's beliefs and behavior?
- Were there any alcohol or drug problems in your former spouse's home?
- Were there any financial problems or chronic illnesses at home?
- Is there any history of mental illness (i.e. depression, bi-polar disorder, etc.) or emotional problems in your former spouse's family?
- Describe how your former spouse's parents saw marriage.
- Is there a history of divorce in your former spouse's family?
- Was your former spouse ever in trouble with the law?
- How did your former spouse get along in school? How far did your former spouse go?
- Were there any serious or traumatic events in your former spouse's growing up years that affected him/her in any way?
- Was there any verbal, physical or sexual abuse in your former spouse's growing-up years? Tell us what you know and how you know it.
- Were your former spouse's childhood and adolescence happy times? Why or why not?
- At what age did your former spouse started dating? Describe your former spouse's dating experience prior to meeting and dating you.

Please describe in detail your dating relationship leading up to the wedding. (*Please address the following questions in your narrative.*)

- When and under what circumstances did you first meet your former spouse? How old were you both at that time?
- When did you begin to go out with each other?
- How often did you see each other and what were some of the activities you did on your dates?
- How did you get along with each other? Were there any serious quarrels or breakups?
- How long did you date each other before you became engaged? Describe the circumstances surrounding the engagement (i.e., who proposed? When? Where, etc)?
- What made the two of you decide to get married?
- Was the engagement ever broken? If so, why? Was it a normal and happy engagement?
- How long were you engaged?
- What attracted you to your former spouse? What attracted your former spouse to you?
- Were you sexually intimate before the wedding? Did you live together before the wedding? If so, how did either of these affect your decision to marry?
- Was there a prenuptial agreement? If so what did it say?

#### PREPARATION FOR THE WEDDING

1. Did anyone advise against or oppose the wedding? If so, why?
2. Did either one of you have any doubts, hesitations or second thoughts about the decision to marry? If so, please explain.
3. How did your parents feel about your wedding? How did your former spouses' parents feel about it?
4. What did your siblings and friends think?
5. Did you and your former spouse give serious thought to education and future career at the time of marriage?
6. At the time of the marriage, describe your personality and character. Were there any specific personality traits that you consider significant? Please go into detail.
7. At the time of the marriage, describe your former spouse's personality and character. Were there any specific personality traits that you consider significant? Please go into detail.
8. Who made the arrangements for the wedding? Did you attend any marriage preparation courses?
9. Did anything unusual happen at your wedding or reception? Were you both normally happy on your wedding day?
10. Where did you go for your honeymoon – how long? Did anything unusual happen?

## THE MARRIAGE

1. How long would you consider this marriage to have been a happy one? Please explain.
2. Were you mature and responsible enough to undertake the obligations of married life? If not, please explain, giving examples from both before and after the time of marriage.
3. Was your former spouse mature and responsible enough to undertake the obligations of married life? If not, please explain, giving examples from both before and after the time of marriage.
4. Could you define how you and your former spouse viewed marriage at the time of your wedding?
5. Marriage involves love, equality, and treating your spouse with respect and dignity. How would you say that you treated your former spouse? How did your former spouse treat you?
6. Did your marriage involve a full sharing of your lives together, or did you and your former spouse merely share the same house?
7. Commitment in relationship involves dedicating oneself to the other person. Do you feel you were able and willing to make and live out the commitment of marriage?
8. Do you feel your former spouse was able and willing to make and live out the commitment of marriage?
9. Were you and your former spouse able to live out other responsibilities in life, i.e., toward family, friends, work? Describe a typical day in your life together.
10. Did both of you intend to have children? How strong was this decision?
11. Were there any use and/or abuse of drugs and alcohol? Please explain.
12. What kind of judgment did each of you show in regard to financial dealings and household matters?
13. Elaborate on the problems in this marriage, indicating when they had arisen and their nature (i.e., financial, sexual, emotional, in-laws, etc).
14. Did either party receive any marriage counseling or professional counseling of any kind? If so, please give particulars.
15. Describe the circumstances surrounding the final separation.
16. What would you consider to be the fundamental cause of the breakdown of this marriage?
17. You are looking back upon your marriage. What do you wish you knew then – that you know now – about your former spouse and about marriage?
18. Please give a short summary of what each has done since the divorce (e.g., work, education, remarriage, etc.).
19. Do you have any further information that would help us understand this relationship?