

DIOCESE OF DALLAS
Fees for Formal Nullity Cases



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(As of December 8, 2015)

How much will an annulment cost? Who pays whom and when?

In the Diocese of Dallas, parish assessments pay for the Tribunal process. There are, however, a few costs that can be incurred by you, the Petitioner, as your case progresses. Usually, the person requesting the investigation, the Petitioner, bears the costs as they become due. These usually are expenses for services outside the Dallas Tribunal and are paid to those providing the services. Usually, payment is due at the time of service.

What if I can't pay? Why does the Church make me "buy" an annulment?

No one ever is asked to "buy" an annulment. The independent services outlined below are offered in order to ensure the rights of both parties are protected and to help you, the Petitioner, present as strong a case as possible for a decision in favor of invalidity.

Type	Avg Fee	Explanation
Formal (Solemn) Nullity Cases		
Advocates	\$0	Most Advocates and Procurators in the Diocese of Dallas either work for a parish or are volunteers. You may appoint another Procurator/Advocate in good standing at any time.
Search Services	\$15 - \$60	The Tribunal maintains a list of independent services that are known to have good success in locating information needed for the successful processing of a case. Such searches include the addresses of Respondents or witnesses or civil or Church documents (marriage, divorce, baptisms, etc.) These costs normally are incurred when the case is first presented, but they may be needed if mail to your former spouse or an important witness is returned.
Court-appointed Expert	+/- \$150 - \$500 per person	In some formal cases, an evaluation of one or both parties by a Court-appointed Expert is needed in order to provide an impartial, third-party opinion, usually regarding one's readiness to marry at the time. As the party requesting the investigation, the

		<p>Petitioner usually bears the cost of both parties' interviews/testing, if both parties are to be evaluated. The variance in costs is due to level of detail required. These costs normally are incurred after all other witness testimony has been received. <u>This is not a counseling or therapy session.</u></p>
Appellate Court Costs	Variable from \$100	<p>An affirmative decision in any formal case rendered <u>before December 8, 2015</u> must be confirmed by a Court of Second Instance. The usual Court of Second Instance is the Appellate Court for the Dioceses of Texas. Once you, the Petitioner, are notified of an affirmative decision from the Diocese of Dallas, you will be instructed to send to the Dallas Tribunal a cashier's check or money order payable to the Appellate Court. The Dallas Tribunal then will forward your case and check to the Appellate Court.</p> <p>An affirmative decision in any formal case rendered <u>December 8, 2015</u> and thereafter will not require the mandatory review by the Appellate Court for the Dioceses of Texas. Rather, either party or the Defender of the Bond may appeal a decision either to the Appellate Court for the Dioceses of Texas or to the Rota. (Or, in the Briefer Process, to the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio or to the Rota.) Normally, the Appellant will bear the costs of the appeal.</p>
Marriage Readiness Assessor	+/- \$80 - \$100	<p>Depending on the circumstances of the case, a stipulation may be placed on one or both parties that must be met before a future marriage in the Church. Usually, this is to ensure that the influences or situations that caused the previous marriage to be invalid have been resolved and that moral and civil obligations to previous spouses and children are being met.</p>