

UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGES

Pope Francis Announces Changes To The Annulment Process

Paving the way for divorced and civilly-remarried Catholics to return to the faith.



Reported Misconceptions

1. The doctrine on marriage and indissolubility has been altered or relaxed to make it easier for civilly - remarried Catholics to participate in the sacraments.

False

Policy changes that effect the manner in which things are done have no effect on Church teaching.

2. Second instance courts are now eliminated. **False**
Only the mandatory appeal has been eliminated.
3. All annulments are now free. **False**
The pope has asked dioceses to make it as affordable as possible while maintaining pay for employees.
4. The pope cited new grounds for cases. **False**
There are no new grounds for nullity.
5. All annulments must be completed in 45 days. **False**
This is only in regard to "fast-track" cases.

What Really Happened



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1. Bishops allowed to determine cases where both parties have consented.
2. Local personnel from deanery or parish to assist bishop. Possibly put together a handbook/guide to help people better understand teachings on marriage and annulments.
3. Bishops are now allowed to have a panel of 1 judge (normally 3).
4. Historically, only 1 layperson allowed on a panel of 3 judges. Now there can be more as long as 1 of the judges is a cleric.
5. Now allowing only 1 witness instead of 3. If reasonable doubt arises, testimony cannot be counted as proof.

For accurate news on the Pope, visit www.news.va/en

Free download of *The Everyday Catholic's Guide To The Annulment Process* at LisaDuffy.Com

In the Vatican's September 8th report regarding Pope Francis's announcement on changes to the annulment process, the final paragraph read as follows:

*Indeed, the prefatory remarks make clear from the very start, that the single most important principle guiding the Holy Father's action and the work of reform undertaken, is that of *salus animarum* – the salvation of souls – which is the *suprema Ecclesiae lex* – the supreme law of the Church. – Pope Francis reforms Church Law In Marital Nullity Trials, September 8, 2015 Vatican Radio*