



## **GENERAL DECREE**

### **PARTICULAR LAW FOR TRIBUNAL PROCEDURES AND THE EXECUTION OF SENTENCES**

Seeking to provide for the timely administration of justice and respect of the rights of all parties that appear before the tribunal, I hereby promulgate the following laws (cf. c. 29).

1. If, after a diligent search, neither the petitioner nor the tribunal staff can ascertain the address of a respondent in a marriage nullity case, an edictal citation may be made by posting an announcement on the diocesan website. Such citation shall not be considered valid without evidence of due diligence in searching for the address.
2. The notifications of decrees, judgements, and other judicial acts may be done by electronic means, such as email, if the judge can be certain that the intended recipient has received the notification. When communicating with procurators and advocates, all notifications may be sent by electronic means, such as email.
3. Parties and their procurators and advocates may respond to communications from a tribunal official by means of electronic communication, such as email. A judge, nevertheless, may not act on such communications unless he or she is certain of their authenticity.
4. A definitive sentence may be published to a party, an advocate, or the defender of the bond by sending an electronic copy of the sentence by email. The recipient, nevertheless, retains the right to receive a printed copy if he or she requests it.
5. If a party in a marriage nullity case has failed to perform a procedural act over a period of three months (90 days), and he or she has not been impeded from doing so, the trial is abated.
6. When the examination of a witness is conducted by the judge, his or her delegate, or an auditor, the examiner may permit the promoter of justice or the defender of the bond to pose questions directly to the witness.


7. The execution of the definitive sentence of a marriage nullity case in first instance may be decreed by the vicar general, the judicial vicar, or an adjutant judicial vicar (cf. c. 1653, §1).

These laws are to be promulgated on the diocesan website and enter into effect immediately.

Given at the Chancery in Memphis, Tennessee on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2026



Very Rev. James M. Clark, J.C.D., Ph.D., J.V.  
Chancellor

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Most Rev. David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D.  
Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee