

## Annulments in PA

Not all marriages last forever. When a spouse wants to end their marriage in Pennsylvania, there are potentially two ways in which he or she could go about doing that.

The first and most common way to end a marriage is by getting a divorce, which is the termination of an otherwise valid marriage

Another route to take is to seek an annulment, but these are only available in certain circumstances. An annulment is different than a divorce because it essentially erases the marriage. It says that because of some impediment that occurred at the time of the ceremony, no marriage has ever occurred.

As we suggested above, annulments are not an option for everyone. For example, you cannot just seek to have your marriage annulled simply because you are mad at your soon-to-be-ex spouse and you want to make it as if the marriage never happened. Rather there are two types of marriages that may be annulled under Pennsylvania law: those that are *void* and those that are *voidable*. If the marriage falls into one of these categories, either party may file an action and seek to have it annulled.

The first type of marriage that may be annulled in Pennsylvania is called a *void marriage*. Void marriages are those that were never legal in the first place. For example, where one spouse was already married, where the parties are related to each other, or where either party was incapable of consenting due to a lack of capacity.

The second type of marriage that may be annulled is a *voidable marriage*. Unlike void marriages, voidable marriages were not illegal in the first place. Rather, voidable marriages are those in which there has been fraud, as well as marriages in which a party was under the age of 18, where either party was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the marriage and filed for an annulment within 60 days of the ceremony, and marriages where one party is incurably impotent and the other party was not aware. Because these marriages are not illegal, the marriage remains valid until the parties receive their decree of annulment.

Once the parties receive their decree of annulment, it will be as if the marriage never happened.

**(For more information on this topic or any topic in divorce, custody, mediation, child support, collaborative law, PFA matters, alimony, or other family law matters, visit [www.Pittsburgh-Divorce-Lawyer.com](http://www.Pittsburgh-Divorce-Lawyer.com) or contact Notaro & Associates, PC at 412-281-1988 for a free phone consultation with an attorney. You can also schedule online by clicking [here](#).)**