



Permission for a Divorced Person to Remarry Application

1. Applications must be submitted to the Office of the Bishop at least **60 days** prior to a decision.
2. The Application is submitted by the officiating priest. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
3. A separate application needs to be submitted for each divorced person in the couple.
4. If the proposed marriage is to be solemnized in a diocese other than the one in which the consent has been given, the consent shall be affirmed by the Bishop of that diocese in writing.

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Age: _____ Known to me since: _____

Church Affiliation and location: _____

Baptismal date: _____ Church _____

Potential Spouse's Name: _____

Age: _____ Known to me since: _____

Church Affiliation and location: _____

Baptismal date: _____ Church _____

Number and type of previous marriages, civil unions, domestic partnerships, or church blessings of relationship: _____

Beginning _____ Ending _____ Beginning _____ Ending _____

Date of Final Divorce/Annulment/Dissolution: _____

Date and location of proposed marriage: _____

For the Priest:

- ☐ This ceremony will take place in the Diocese of Colorado, or I have received written permission from the bishop of the diocese in which I have been asked to officiate.
- ☐ I have no reservations in solemnizing this marriage.
- ☐ I have enclosed a detailed letter giving my pastoral support to the couple's application.
- ☐ I have personally reviewed a certified divorce or annulment decree and kept a copy for my files.

In counseling this couple, I hereby declare that (please check):

- ☐ I have ascertained that they have not been refused marriage in the Episcopal Church to each other by any bishop or priest of this Church.
- ☐ I have reviewed with the applicants the DECLARATION OF INTENT required by Title I, Canon 18, Sec. 4. They have signed it in good conscience. (A copy of their Declaration must accompany this request.)
- ☐ They have received the instruction and counsel required by Title I, Canons 18 and 19 of The Episcopal Church.
- ☐ I am satisfied that they intend to maintain a loving Christian marriage as understood by teachings of this church and I am willing to officiate at their wedding.
- ☐ They have indicated their intention to live out their Marriage Covenant within the context of a worshipping Christian community.
- ☐ Notice that this marriage has taken place will be sent to the Office of the Bishop to complete this record, as required by Title I, Canon 19, Sec. 3(c).
- ☐ If one or both parties has been divorced two times, I have received and included a letter from a licensed professional counselor stating the couple has attended at least five sessions and in his/her/their opinion that the couple has: come to terms with the end of any previous relationships and any unresolved issues; addressed possible patterns of behavior that led to the end of previous relationships; explored how each person deals with conflict in previous and current relationships; parenting children from previous marriages (if applicable).

Letter of Support from the priest:

In a separate letter, please describe the topics addressed during premarital counseling and the number of sessions. If you did not facilitate premarital counseling, then the priest who did will need to write a separate letter. Your letter should include why you have been asked to officiate at this wedding and why you personally support this application.

Clergy Signature _____ Date _____

For the Applicant:

Please give prayerful and thoughtful responses to these questions, which are designed to give insight into your former relationship. These answers will need to be as thorough and complete as possible to allow the Bishop to make an informed decision. **Please answer these questions typed on separate pages.**

- 1 **What were all the major causes divorce? What did you contribute to the situation?**
This should be stated from your point of view, ignoring any blaming of the other party.
- 2 **What insights did you gain from the divorce?**
This question allows you to share your thoughts on your own contribution to the ending of your previous marriage(s). In your answer, please examine any expectations, dreams, or hopes, which were unrealized your previous marriage.
- 3 **What insights and strengths do you bring to this new relationship? How will this marriage be different from a previous marriage?**
These questions provide a space to reflect on how you have changed and grown as well as how you now relate to your potential new spouse.
- 4 **What is your current relationship with your ex-spouse? What role has forgiveness played?**
Forgiveness can be complicated and take time. Perhaps, you desire to seek forgiveness or perhaps there are things that you want to forgive your ex-spouse for in your previous marriage. Forgiveness and reconciliation may have already happened.
- 5 **What part will the Jesus play in the potential future marital relationship? How will the Church play a role in your potential new marriage?**
This question is crucial because in the Episcopal Church you will make certain promises in the name of God. You will want to tell the Bishop with your view of Christian marriage in contrast with a civil marriage.

Were children born to the marriage? Yes No

If so, how many children and their current ages? _____

Signature of the Applicant _____ Date _____

BISHOP'S JUDGMENT: **Approved** **Disapproved** **Requests more information**

Bishop Signature _____