

Diocese of Pennsylvania
GUIDELINES FOR THE MARRIAGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS

(Reference: Title I, Canons 18 & 19)

The consultation with the Bishop required under Canon 19, Sec. 3 (c) shall be in writing and using the attached form. Except under extreme circumstances the Bishop will not grant permission to perform a marriage sooner than two years after the actual separation of the parties of the previous marriage

The application for consent of the Bishop shall be made by the member of the clergy who will officiate at the proposed wedding. When the officiating member of the clergy is not canonically resident or holding a pastoral cure in this diocese, the application must be accompanied by the endorsement of a member of the clergy of this diocese who certifies that these guidelines have been met.

The attached form is to be completed and sent to the Bishop's office at least 60 (sixty) days prior to the proposed date of the wedding.

**Petition to the Bishop for Consent to Solemnize a Marriage
after Divorce or Annulment**

Petition submitted by

The Rev. _____ Date _____

Parish _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

To the Bishop: I petition for Consent to solemnize the marriage of

- a. (Name) _____ whose prior marriage(s) ended in divorce or annulment (# of prior marriages _____) and (b or c)
- b. (Name) _____ whose prior marriage(s) ended in divorce or annulment (# of prior marriages _____)
- c. (Name of other party if not above) _____

Indicate “yes” or “no” to every question. Where “no” is circled, attach a full explanation.

Yes No

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. | I have met in person with both parties and they are engaged in a program of premarital counseling with me, or they have met in person with a priest or counselor that is satisfactory to me and I have consulted that priest or counselor and am assured that they are engaged in a program of premarital counseling. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. | Each party has signed the Declaration of Intention. (See Declaration.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. | At least one of the parties is baptized. (BCP, p. 422 paragraph 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. | I have inquired of the parties whether they have consulted any other priest of this church regarding the proposed marriage and if they have, I have personally consulted that priest prior to submitting this petition. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. | I have personally examined the final decree(s) of divorce or annulment and I certify that on the basis of my examination, the prior marriage(s) is(are) lawfully dissolved. A copy is to be sent to the Bishop along with this request. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. | I believe these parties intend a true Christian marriage. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. | I have thoroughly discussed and counseled each part to consider their readiness for marriage (or such discussion has occurred in a counseling program satisfactory to me). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. | I believe each has realistically faced and evaluated the cause(s) of the death(s) of the previous marriage(s). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. | I am satisfied that each party has an adequate continuing concern for the previous spouse(s) and any children. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. | I believe the marriage of this couple is likely to be a demonstrable sign of the spiritual union between Christ and his Church. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. | I am willing to solemnize the marriage, if consent is granted. |

Yes No

12. I am satisfied that the couple (or at least one party with the support of the other) intends to live out their marriage with the support of the Christian community as participants in some congregation of the church.
13. All matters of property and custody have been settled.
14. I have discussed with this couple, to the degree I believe to be appropriate, differences, if any, in age, income, religious discipline, patterns of conflict and especially for older couples with grown children, whether a written, pre-nuptial agreement on disposition of assets, property, or other estate planning would be appropriate for them to consider (or, such discussion of those issues has occurred in a counseling program satisfactory to me).
15. At least one calendar year has passed since the date(s) of the final divorce decrees.

The following question is for situations where there has been more than one divorce or annulment involving either or both parties.

16. I have received from a professional councilor a statement concerning this couple and the statement is attached along with an explanatory letter from me.

*If a person has been married more than once prior to this application, a “professional councilor” is required.

(Where questions 1-16 are answered “No” A written explanation should accompany this Petition).

I request consent of the Bishop for me to solemnize this marriage on _____, 20____
at _____.

Signature of member of the clergy submitting petition

Print name

This form is to be emailed along with a scanned copy of the divorce decrees and any other documentation to dfitzpatrick@diopa.org, or printed and mailed to:

*Donna Fitzpatrick
Diocese of Pennsylvania
23 East Airy Street
Norristown, PA 19401*