

**Diocese of East Carolina**  
**GUIDELINES FOR THE MARRIAGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS**  
(Reference: Title I, Canon 19)

The consultation with the Bishop required under Canon 19, Sec. 3 (c) shall be in writing and using the attached form. Except under the 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 ended in divorce or annulment and (b or c)
- b. (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ whose prior marriage ended in divorce or annulment or:
- 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.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. At least one of the parties is baptized.  |
| <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.   |

- 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 certified copy is to be sent to the Bishop along with this request.**
- 6. I believe these parties intend a true Christian marriage.
- 7. I have thoroughly discussed and counseled each party to consider their readiness for marriage (or such discussion has occurred in a counseling program satisfactory to me).
- 8. I believe each has realistically faced and evaluated the cause(s) of the death(s) of the previous marriage(s).
- 9. I am satisfied that each party has an adequate continuing concern for the previous spouse(s) and any children.
- 10. I believe the marriage of this couple is likely to be a demonstrable sign of the spiritual union between Christ and his Church.
- 11. I am willing to solemnize the marriage, if consent is granted.
- 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. At least two-calendar years have elapsed since the date(s) of the actual separation.
- 14. All matters of property and custody have been settled.
- 15. 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).
- 16. At least one calendar year has elapsed 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).**
- 17. I have received from a professional counselor a statement concerning this couple and the statement is attached along with an explanatory letter from me.

**(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 may be emailed to [hjstotler@diocese-eastcarolina.org](mailto:hjstotler@diocese-eastcarolina.org) along with a scanned copy of the divorce decrees and any other documentation, or printed and mailed to:*

*Hannah Stotler  
Diocese of East Carolina  
P.O. Box 1336  
Kinston, NC 28503*