



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

NOTE: All petitions should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the proposed wedding date and should be addressed to

**The Rt. Rev. Poulson Reed
The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma
924 N. Robinson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102**

Petition submitted by: The Rev. _____ Date: _____

Congregation: _____ Telephone: _____

The following information must be provided:

1. The full names and ages of both parties to the proposed marriage.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____

Proposed date of the Marriage: _____

2. The name of the Episcopal congregation(s) in which these persons are active baptized members.

Congregation: _____

Congregation: _____

3. The name(s) of the former spouse(s).

Name: _____

Name: _____

4. The date(s) of the final divorce decree(s). For a second marriage, a waiting period of one year from the date of the final decree is normally required. If a lengthy separation (in excess of two years) has occurred a six month waiting period *may* be granted. NOTE: If you have seen a copy of the divorce decree it is not necessary to include a copy of the decree with this petition

Name: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

5. If any children of the divorced spouse are minors, state the court-ordered financial arrangements for their support and whether all such payments are current.

Details: _____

Are payments current: _____ Yes _____ No

In a separate written statement include the following:

- A statement as to why the prior marriage(s) failed
- A statement as to why the couple believes the proposed marriage will be different
- A statement of your understanding of the manner in which the couple intends to place God at the center of their marriage and home
- A statement that each party has signed the Declaration of Intent
- A statement that you are firmly convinced that the petition should be granted and give your reasons for this opinion

In the event of a third marriage by either party, the parties to the proposed marriage must consult with a licensed marriage therapist as to their readiness for marriage. The written opinion of the therapist must be conveyed to the petitioning priest and included with the petition to the Bishop.

Insofar as fourth marriages by either party are concerned, no petitions will be considered except under *very* unusual circumstances.

Regarding the blessing of marriages performed by civil authority, the Diocesan Guidelines are as follows: “Marriages may be blessed for those who marry outside the Church once sufficient time has elapsed that would have made it possible for them to apply for remarriage in the Church according to the regular Diocesan Guidelines.

Only a priest can serve as the petitioner in a request for a marital judgment (letters written by others cannot be considered).

NOTE that if the priest requesting the judgment is not the rector or priest-in-charge of the Church in which the proposed ceremony is to take place, there must also be a letter from that person assuring the Bishop of his or her concurrence with the petition.

I request consent of the Bishop for me to solemnize this marriage.

PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED for the performance
of a marriage between the above named persons on or after

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL this

Signature of Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Poulson Reed
Bishop of Oklahoma