

The Diocese of Eau Claire
510 S. Farwell St.
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701

DIVORCED PERSONS SEEKING REMARRIAGE

In order to comply with Title I, Canon 19, of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church permitting divorced persons to be remarried in the Episcopal Church, Bishop Keith B. Whitmore asks the following of clergy and divorced couples seeking remarriage:

1. Permission from the Episcopal Bishop in whose Diocese you live. This applies to non-Episcopalians as well as those who are members of the Church.
2. The Bishop of the Diocese of Eau Claire must give his specific permission for a priest of the Church to officiate at the solemnization of the vows of any couple being remarried in the Diocese regardless of the location of the ceremony. He requires written answers to four questions he will use as a basis for his permission.
3. A period of one-year minimum must have elapsed since a Final Divorce Decree has been issued before the Bishop will consider approval of remarriage in the Church.
4. A copy of the Final Decree must be returned with the answers to the four questions. These will be reviewed in consultation with the Rector of the Parish, then forwarded to the Bishop for his consideration.

Please give prayerful and careful response to these questions, which are designed to give insight into your former relationship and to help identify any problems which may be prevented in the marriage you now contemplate.

1. WHAT CAUSED THE DIVORCE?
This should be stated from your point of view, ignoring any blaming of the other party. The important factor is: What did you contribute to the situation?
2. WHAT INSIGHTS DID YOU GAIN FROM THE DIVORCE?

This question depends on your understanding your contribution to the breakup of your previous marriage. You might find useful an examination of your expectations, dreams, or hopes which were frustrated in your previous relationship.

3. WHAT INSIGHTS AND STRENGTHS DO YOU NOW BRING TO THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP?

How does this new knowledge apply? What expectations do you now have?

4. WHAT PART DOES THE CHURCH PLAY IN THE FUTURE MARITAL RELATIONSHIP?

This question is crucial because we take seriously the concept of Christian marriage. You need to acquaint the Bishop with your view of Christian marriage in contrast with only a Civil marriage. Since the marriage ceremony is only the beginning of a new life together, our desire is to help you establish a solid foundation for a happy and fulfilling life together.

PART I *a separate form to be filled in by all persons to whom this canon applies.*

APPLICATION UNDER TITLE I: CANON 19. 2 (a) BY A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH WHOSE MARRIAGE HAS BEEN ANNULLED OR DISSOLVED BY A CIVIL COURT, FOR THE BISHOP'S PERMISSION TO HAVE THIS MARRIAGE SOLEMNIZED BY A PRIEST IN THE DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE.

1. Name and _____
Address _____

2. Of what parish? _____ Are you a Communicant? _____

Name of your former spouse _____

Date of marriage _____ Where _____

In what church? _____ Or Civil official? _____

3. Your age at that time? _____ Former spouse's age then? _____

How long and how well had you known one another before marriage?

Had you known one another's families? _____ How well? _____

Did you receive pre-marital preparation? _____

4. That marriage was DISSOLVED/ANNULLED on _____

in the State of _____

5. What efforts were made to prevent the marriage's dissolution?

6. Why do you think that a reconciliation is (humanly speaking) quite impossible?

7. On a separate sheet, write down whatever facts you think will be useful to the Bishop in arriving at a judgment. The sheet must be attached to this Application.

These documents are confidential, and will not be divulged to anyone except to the Bishop's legal advisor on Canon Law as needed. A certified copy of the Divorce Decree must be attached.

PART II

PARISH PRIEST'S CERTIFICATE

To the Bishop of Eau Claire,

This certifies:

- (1) That I have known the petitioner (name) _____ for _____ years; that he (she) is an active member of the Church in good standing; and that the information now given in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief;
- (2) That I have instructed the parties to the proposed marriage, or shall instruct them, in the teachings of the Church regarding the nature and meaning of Christian marriage; and it is my belief that these persons have a true intention to be faithful to the Church's teaching as set forth in the Marriage Service, in the Canons of the Church, and in the statement of intention required by General Convention to be signed by the parties to every marriage.
- (3) The parties have been contemplating marriage for (indicate length of time) _____ years.
- (4) My personal letter is attached to this application.

PART III *To be filled out by the priest*

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE

1. The person the petitioner is planning to marry:
 - a. His (her) name _____
 - b. His (her) address _____
 - c. His (her) age _____ () is a divorced person.
 - d. He (she) is a member of what church? _____
located in (city) _____ (state) _____
2. These persons have known each other for _____ years.
3. They desire to be married:
 - a. By The Reverend _____ of _____
Episcopal Church in (city) _____
4. Date of Proposed Marriage _____

It will avoid misunderstandings if the date of the contemplated marriage is not announced to anyone until after the Bishop has declared his judgement in writing to the Priest who has signed PART I of this application. If the bishop's judgement is favorable the marriage may take place at any time after the date of that judgement.

The Church provides the following statement to be signed by the partners to every marriage (I:18:3d):

"We, A.B. and C.D., desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the liturgical forms authorized by this Church. We believe it is for the purpose of mutual fellowship, encouragement, and understanding, for the procreation (if it may be) of children, and their physical and spiritual nurture, and for the safeguarding and benefit of society, and we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto."

Are you and your proposed spouse willing to sign this statement, and will you seek to fulfill it to the best of your ability?

_____ y/n

Date _____ Signed _____ (Petitioner)

Signed _____ (Petitioner)

Signed _____ (Priest)

Rector/Vicar of _____ Church

City/Town _____