

The Diocese of Bethlehem

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

Petition submitted by:

The Rev. _____

Congregation: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Date of Petition: _____ Proposed Date of Wedding _____

To the Bishop:

I petition for consent to solemnize the marriage of (eliminate [b] or [c])

a. (Name) _____
whose prior marriage ended in divorce or annulment;

and

b. (Name) _____
whose prior marriage ended in divorce or annulment

or

c. (Name of other party, if not above) _____

Check "yes" or "no" to every question. Where "no" is checked, attach a full explanation.

Yes No

1. I have met in person with both parties and they are engaged in a program of pre-marital counseling satisfactory to me, or they have met in person with a priest of this church satisfactory to me and I have consulted that priest and am assured that they are engaged in a program of pre-marital counseling.
2. Each party has signed the Declaration of Intention.
3. At least one of the parties is baptized.
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 then 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.
6. I believe these parties intend a true Christian marriage.

Yes **No**

7. I have thoroughly discussed each party's personal readiness for marriage with them (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 deaths 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 one calendar year has elapsed since the date(s) of the final decree/s. (Exceptions are possible, but only if a minimum of 18 months of uninterrupted separation has occurred. Attach a full explanation if requesting an exception.)
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, or other related matters.

The following question is for situations where either or both parties has been divorced or had a marriage annulled more than once [this is the third or more marriage].

16. 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 1-15 are answered "Yes" and question 16 is not applicable, no additional material is required to accompany the Petition.)

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

Signature of member of the clergy submitting petition