



The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

Petition to the Bishop for Consent to Solemnize a Marriage After Divorce or Annulment¹

This application pertains to marriages made in accordance with a civil jurisdiction, and it pertains to other covenant relationships made. Per Canon I.19.3(c)(d) Petitioners must be canonically resident, or licensed to officiate, in the Diocese of Michigan to obtain consent from the Bishop of Michigan. If not canonically resident or licensed to officiate in the Diocese of Michigan, the petitioner must obtain consent of the Bishop of the Diocese wherein the petitioner is canonically resident, with such consent to be affirmed by the Bishop of Michigan. **This document is to be completed and submitted to the Bishop of Michigan sixty (60) days before the proposed date of the service.**

Petition submitted by:

The Rev. _____

Congregation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Priest who will officiate at the wedding: _____

I am canonically resident in the Diocese of _____

I am licensed to officiate in the Diocese of Michigan: Yes___ No___

Date of Petition: _____ 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*) _____

¹ This application pertains to marriages made in accordance with a civil jurisdiction, and it pertains to other covenant relationships made within the Church but apart from civil authority. Both sorts of relationships can end. For pastoral reasons, both sorts of relationships deserve consent from a bishop.

Please address each question thoroughly and feel free to attach additional pages. It is appropriate to ask the couple to write several paragraphs to address each question. You may use their responses to answer the following questions.

1. Why did your previous relationship deteriorate?

2. What did you learn about yourself in the process?

3. How will this marriage, this relationship be substantively different from your previous marriage?

Please check "yes" or "no" to each question below. Where "no" is checked, attach an 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.
- Yes___ No___ 2. Each party has signed the Declaration of Intention.²
- Yes___ No___ 3. At least one of the parties is baptized.
- Yes___ No___ 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.
- Yes___ No___ 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. (Not applicable if no civil authority was involved in making the marriage.)
- Yes___ No___ 6. I believe these parties intend a true Christian marriage.

² "We understand the teaching of the church that God's purpose for our marriage is for our mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong; and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties, with the help of God and the support of our community." Canon 1.18.4. Note the changes in this Declaration beginning in 2015.

- 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).
- Yes___ No___ 8. I believe each party has realistically faced and evaluated the cause(s) of the death(s) of the previous marriage(s).
- Yes___ No___ 9. I am satisfied that each party has an adequate continuing concern for the previous spouse(s) and any children.
- Yes___ No___ 10. I believe the marriage of this couple is likely to be a demonstrable sign of the spiritual union between Christ and his Church.
- Yes___ No___ 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.
- Yes___ No___ 13. At least one calendar year has elapsed since the date(s) of the final decree(s). *(Exceptions are possible. Attach a full explanation to request an exception.)*
- Yes___ No___ 14. All matters of property and custody have been settled.
- Yes___ No___ 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).

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

- Yes___ No___ 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 cleric submitting petition) _____