

GUIDELINES FOR CLERGY
TO
REQUEST CONSENT TO OFFICIATE

The Book of Common Prayer sets forth the theology of Holy Matrimony, and Title I, Canons 18 and 19 of the National Canons outline the legal requirements governing marriage in the Episcopal Church.

To help the Bishop respond to your requests, please:

1. Fill out a Solemnization of Marriage form for each divorce involved.
(A copy of the divorce decree is not required by the Bishop's office, but you need to see the decree and record the date of the divorce decree and the issuing court on the Solemnization of Marriage form.)
2. Provide all information requested (do not leave blanks.)
3. Sign each form.
4. Enclose a cover letter from yourself outlining the following:
 - The relationship of the couple to the Church.
 - Why you believe the couple is seeking the Church's blessing for their intended marriage.
 - Why you believe the couple intend a life-long Christian marriage.
 - Any other general background information that you feel would be helpful for the Bishop to render a decision.

The Bishop will rely on the information provided as well as your own impressions and judgments of the couple.

If consent is given for you to officiate at the wedding, please be sure to notify the Bishop's office when the marriage has been solemnized by completing the Canonical Report and returning it to the Bishop.

Mail to:
Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Ohio
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

Diocese of Ohio
Solemnization of Marriage

(Use this form in seeking the Bishop's consent to officiate at the marriage of a divorced person.)

Mail To: The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. - 2230 Euclid Avenue – Cleveland, OH 44115
 Requests must be submitted at least thirty (30) days before the Bishop's response is needed.

Date of Application:		Date of Proposed Marriage:	
Full Name of Groom : _____			
Church Membership: _____			
Age	Marital Status	No. of Proposed Marriages	Baptized Yes [] No []
Full Name of Bride : _____			
Church Membership: _____			
Age	Marital Status	No. of Proposed Marriages	Baptized Yes [] No []
<p>Please answer questions on PAGE 2. A letter of Recommendation from the Officiating Clergy must accompany this form.</p>			

- I have seen the divorce decree and have noted on page 2 the date and court issuing the decree.
- I have known the petitioner for _____ (length of time) in the following context:

- I hereby certify that this couple signified to me on (Date) _____ their intention to be married.
- I also certify that I have instructed (or caused competent others to instruct) both parties in the meaning of Holy Matrimony according to the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

I respectfully ask your consent to officiate at this wedding.	Clergy: _____
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Bishop's Consent [] Non-consent [] Date _____

Page 2 (Copy for Additional Information)

Groom [] Bride []

Former Spouse _____

Names/Ages of Children:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Age	Name	Age

_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Age	Name	Age

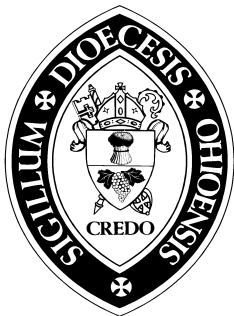
Reason for marital breakdown:

Was counseling sought? Please explain.

Date/Court issuing divorce decree:

_____	_____
Date	Court

Evidence of concern for former spouse and for children from former marriage where appropriate:



CANONICAL REPORT TO THE BISHOP

The Canons require that the Bishop be notified when the proposed marriage is solemnized (1, 18:3 (c)). The form below should be completed and mailed to the Bishop following the marriage service.

* * * * *

Dear Bishop Hollingsworth:

This is to inform you that the marriage of

Groom

And

Bride

Was solemnized by me on _____

At _____

Date consent was given: _____

Signature of Priest

The Rev. _____

Parish _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____