

**APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE  
AT THE RE-MARRIAGE OF (A) DIVORCED PERSON(S)**  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The following information should be provided to the Bishop **at least thirty (30) days before** the proposed wedding date.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The following persons desire to be married by a priest of the Episcopal Church on

at

\_\_\_\_\_ *date* \_\_\_\_\_ *name of church and city*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Groom's Full Name (no initials)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Age*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Address (city, state, zip code)*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Member of parish, city, state (if none, please indicate)*

This person is:

baptized       confirmed       a confirmed communicant in good standing

an active member of another denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

This person:  has never been married before       is a widower

has been married before and his former wife is still living.\*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Bride's Full Name (no initials)* \_\_\_\_\_ *Age*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Address (city, state, zip code)*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Member of parish, city, state (if none, please indicate)*

This person is:

baptized       confirmed       a confirmed communicant in good standing

an active member of another denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

This person:  has never been married before       is a widower

has been married before and her former husband is still living.\*

**OVER**

**CANONICAL CHECKLIST TO ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION  
FOR PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE AT THE RE-MARRIAGE OF (A) DIVORCED PERSON(S)**

*Title I,  
Canon 19,  
Section 3(2)*

- I am satisfied that the prior marriage has been annulled or dissolved by a final judgment or decree of a civil court of jurisdiction because I have examined a copy of the “Certificate of Divorce Absolute” (not Agreement; not Complaint; not Judgment NISI). (In states other than Massachusetts, the Certificate must include in the wording that the marriage is dissolved.  
Date of Final Decree(s) (if 2 names, designate name w/date): \_\_\_\_\_

*Title I,  
Canon 19,  
Section 3(b)*

- I have instructed the parties that continuing concern must be shown for the well-being of the former spouse, and of any children of the prior marriage(s).

*Title I,  
Canon 18,  
Section 2(b)*

- I have ascertained that both parties understand that Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind and will, and with intent that it be lifelong.

*Title I,  
Canon 18,  
Section 2(e)*

- I have instructed both parties as to the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony, or I have ascertained that they have both received such instruction from persons known by me to be competent and responsible.

*Title I,  
Canon 18,  
Section 3(d)*

- I have reviewed with both parties the Declaration of Intention, and both have signed the same.

*Title I,  
Canon 19,  
Section 3(c)*

- I respectfully request the consent of the Bishop to solemnize this marriage.

The Bishop also requests:

1. A cover letter from the cleric briefly introducing the couple and their situation.
2. A short letter from each divorced person (no more than one page) outlining the causes of the breakdown or the previous marriage and the reasons he/she believes the proposed marriage will be a life-long commitment.

Since we are called to respect and support the integrity of vows in Holy Matrimony, there are serious concerns raised by a request for a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> marriage. These extraordinary requests should include a more detailed letter of explanation from the cleric.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*