

MARRIAGE / REMARRIAGES IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Below is a general list of requirements. Please refer to the website link below for all forms and more detailed explanations:

<https://www.diocesewma.org/> (Parish and Clergy Resources tab)

- All marriage intentions (whether traditional or re-marriage) must be registered at local church through Parish Clergy.
- If a traditional marriage is to be performed, a “Declaration of Intention” must be completed and filed in the Parish where marriage is to be performed.
- If a re-marriage is taking place, an “*Application for Permission to Officiate at the Re-Marriage of (a) Divorced Person (s)*” must be completed and sent to the Bishop along with the cover letter and short letters from each of the divorced persons for approval of the marriage by the Bishop. This application is located on our website.
- Once the marriage has been approved by the Bishop, a “*Permission to be Married by a Minister of this Church*” will be completed by the Bishop along with a “*Remarriage Permission*” Cover Letter written by the Bishop, will be sent to the Parish Clergy.
- After the marriage has been performed, the Parish Clergy will complete and send the “*Report to Bishop*” for confirmation that the wedding took place.

PROCEDURE TO PERFORM MARRIAGES IN MASSACHUSETTS

The state of Massachusetts requires the following procedures:

- A copy of his/her ordination papers. If ordination is not applicable, a license similar certificate issued by the religious organization will be accepted.
- A letter of good standing from the leader of the religious organization on church letterhead.
- Clergy must be a Massachusetts resident.

Information must be mailed to the following address:

Secretary of the Commonwealth
Commissions Section
One Ashburton Place, Room 1719
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

If you have any further questions, please contact the Commissions Section at 617-727-2836.