



Diocese of the
MID-ATLANTIC
Anglican Church in North America

Petition to the Bishop for Consent to Bless a Civil Marriage after Divorce

A copy of the completed petition should be retained by the priest, while the original completed and signed petition should be mailed, or scanned and emailed, to the Rt. Rev. John A. M. Guernsey. Bishop Guernsey must receive the completed form not less than 45 days prior to the planned wedding date.

Priest's Full Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Church Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Man's Full Name: _____

Status: prior marriage divorced;
 prior marriage annulled;
 never married;
 widowed

Woman's Full Name: _____

Status: prior marriage divorced;
 prior marriage annulled;
 never married;
 widowed

Please attach a brief summation of why the previous marriage(s) dissolved and the history of the new relationship.

I hereby submit this petition to Bishop John Guernsey for consent to bless the civil marriage of the man and woman named above.

Priest's signature

Date

Check yes or no to each question. Attach a full explanation for each “no” response.

Priest’s Questionnaire:	Yes	No
At least 365 days have elapsed since the date(s) of the final decree(s) of divorce.		
The planned date of the blessing is at least 45 days away.		
Both bride and groom are baptized, are committed to Christ and are active members of a church.		
The Declaration of Intention, required under Canon II.7.6 of the Anglican Church in North America, has been signed by the bride and groom.		
There has been no more than one divorce (or annulment) for either the bride or the groom.		
The marriage(s) did not end because of adultery committed by a person now seeking permission to remarry.		
There is demonstrated repentance for the individual’s role in the break-up of the previous marriage. (Even if the person did not commit adultery or abandon his or her spouse, there are always ways in which the person sinfully contributed to the break-up.)		
I am satisfied that the couple has an understanding of the biblical teaching about marriage and divorce (including the appropriateness of divorce only on biblical grounds) and a commitment to live under biblical principles in this marriage.		
This blessing taking place in the church would not cause scandal or offense within the congregation.		
The previous spouse(s) is not still in the same congregation.		
I am satisfied that this couple intends a Christian marriage which they will live out within and with the support of a Christian congregation.		
I believe the blessing of this marriage will be a demonstrable sign of the spiritual union between Christ and his Church.		
They have completed or will complete prior to the blessing a program of (pre-) marital counseling satisfactory to me.		
I have met in person with this couple to assess the fruit of this marriage.		
I am satisfied that this man and this woman have realistically faced and evaluated the cause(s) of the ending of the prior marriage(s).		
I am satisfied that this man and this woman have an adequate concern for the prior spouse(s) and any dependents.		
I am satisfied that this couple has the ability to handle any personal differences (e.g. regarding ethnicity, religious discipline, age, income, patterns of conflict) in a healthy manner.		
I am satisfied that this couple has the ability to handle any differences regarding surviving dependents (e.g., disposition of assets, property and other estate planning) in a healthy manner.		
If I am not the senior ranking cleric of this congregation, I have obtained approval to officiate at this blessing.		
I have inquired of the parties whether they have consulted another priest or pastor of this or any church regarding the proposed blessing and, if they have, I have consulted with that member of the clergy (attach a brief explanation).		
If consent is granted, I am willing to officiate at this blessing.		
I have examined the final <i>signed</i> decree(s) of divorce and find the prior marriage(s) lawfully dissolved.		
All matters of property and custody have been settled.		