**PETITION TO THE BISHOP FOR CONSENT**

**TO SOLEMNIZE A MARRIAGE[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Submitted By (Clergyperson):**

Date of Intended Marriage:

Clergy Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Clergy Email:

**Seeking consent to solemnize the marriage of: [eliminate (b) or (c)]:**

1. Person whose prior marriage ended in divorce or annulment:

Street Address:

City, State, ZIP:

1. Person whose prior marriage ended in divorce or annulment:

Street Address:

City, State, ZIP:

1. Name of other party, if not above:

Street Address:

City, State, ZIP:

1. Statement of Groom's Christian commitment (including church membership, affiliation/status, and known dates of Baptism/Confirmation/Commitment):

1. Statement of Bride's Christian commitment (including church membership, affiliation/status, and known dates of Baptism/Confirmation/Commitment):

**Circle "YES" or "NO" to questions. Where "NO" is circled, attach a full explanation.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **YES NO** | 1. I have met with both parties and I am engaged in a program of premarital counseling with them; or, they have met with a priest of this church, and I am assured that they have participated in a program of premarital counseling with the priest or qualified professional counselor known to me. |
| **YES NO** | 1. Each party has signed an attached *Declaration of Intention* (**revised 2023)**. |
| **YES NO** | 3. Both of the persons are baptized. (If not, the gospel has been shared clearly.  Marriage between a believer and an unbeliever has been strongly discouraged (1 Cor. 7:39). If the priest believes that one is actually an unbeliever, even if baptized, the Bishop will be consulted personally.) |
| **YES NO** | 4. 1 have inquired of the parties whether they have consulted any other priest or pastor of this or any church regarding the proposed marriage and if they have, I have consulted with that clergyperson before submitting this petition. (A brief note concerning this is attached.) |
| **YES NO** | 5. 1 have personally examined the final decree(s) of divorce or annulment and I certify that on the basis of my examination the prior marriages) (is) (are) lawfully dissolved. |
| **YES NO** | 6. At least one year has passed since the granting of the final civil decree(s) of divorce. |
| **YES NO** | 7. All matters of property and custody have been settled. |
| **YES NO** | 8. I believe each has realistically faced and evaluated the cause(s) of the deaths 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 children. |
| **YES NO** | 10. I have thoroughly discussed each party's personal readiness for marriage with them, or such discussion has occurred in a counseling program. |
| **YES NO** | 11. I have discussed with this couple, to the degree I believe to be appropriate, differences in age, income, religious discipline, patterns of conflict, (or such discussion of those issues has occurred in a counseling program satisfactory to me.) |
| **YES NO** | 12. 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** | 13. I believe these parties intend a true Christian marriage. |
| **YES NO** | 14. I am satisfied that the couple intends to live out their marriage with the support of the Christian community as participants in a congregation of the Church. |
| **YES NO** | 15. This marriage will be solemnized in a church, chapel or other authorized place. |
| **YES NO** | 16. Either a lawful civil marriage will occur before the wedding or I will sign the marriage license as an agent of the state after performing the liturgy. |
| **YES NO** | 17. I am willing to solemnize the marriage if consent is granted. |

**I request consent of the Bishop to solemnize this marriage.**

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

Signature of Clergyperson submitting petition

**Rev. 2.5.23**

1. *Consents will generally not be given for remarriage for a person with more than one divorce.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)