

POLICY ON CONSENT TO REMARRIAGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS

1. This policy supplements the existing policy and is to be applied only in those cases where the couple seeking marriage in the Church meet these criteria:
 - (a) Neither person has had more than one (1) previous marriage dissolved in divorce.
 - (b) At least one (1) year has elapsed since the divorce decree was issued.
 - (c) Both persons are active in a faith community, and one of those is related to the Episcopal Church.
 - (d) The priest submitting the application is convinced that the potential exists for a good marriage.
 - (e) There is at least thirty (30) days between the date of submitting the application [thirty-three (33) days if submitted by mail] and the date of the proposed marriage.
 - (f) The priest submitting the application is canonically resident in this Diocese and not under discipline.
2. In these cases the Bishop delegates to the priest submitting the application the authority to consent to remarriage subject to the Bishop's withholding his consent within thirty (30) days after the submission of the application.
3. In these cases the priest informs the Bishop at least thirty (30) days before the proposed marriage date that the criteria set out in paragraph 1 above are met. The full names of the couple, their addresses, and the proposed date for the marriage service should be given.
4. The Bishop has thirty (30) days from receipt of the application [or thirty-three (33) days from the date of mailing the application at a United States Post Office if it is mailed] in which to respond. If the Bishop has not responded within that period, his consent shall be considered to be given by delegation to the priest submitting the application. The Bishop may act to withdraw his consent at any time prior to the celebration and blessing of the marriage. It should be understood that such withdrawal will be exercised only in the most extreme circumstances.

5. None of the above provisions shall apply if the notification cannot reach the Bishop's office in compliance with the time frames herein set out nor shall it apply to any marriage which does not occur within ten (10) days of the proposed marriage date set out on the application.