



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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Remarriage in the Diocese: Obtaining the Bishop's Consent

A Guide to Marriage Petitions for Clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida

Before solemnizing a marriage where either party has been divorced, the Canons of The Episcopal Church require the Bishop's consent. This guide outlines the documents required, how to submit them, and what to do once the marriage has taken place.

Required Documents

1. **[Declaration of Intention](#)** — completed and signed by the couple.
2. **Petition Regarding Judgment of Termination, Annulment, and/or Consent to Solemnize after Divorce or Annulment** — completed by the officiant using the [Marriage Petition Form](#), required whenever either party has been divorced.
3. **Clergy Endorsement** — an email or letter from the officiant to the Bishop expressing support for the forthcoming marriage.
4. **Petitioner Letter to the Bishop** — a typed or handwritten letter from the divorced party or parties addressing the question at the top of page 2 of the Petition Form: what they believe to be the true cause of the breakdown of the prior marriage, in terms of their own involvement as well as that of their former spouse.
5. **Confirmation of Pre-Marital Counseling** — an email or letter from the counselor or clergy who provided pre-marital counseling, summarizing findings, giving endorsement, and noting which resources were used. If the officiant provided the counseling, these details may instead be included in the officiant's cover letter (refer to item 3).

How to Submit

The [Marriage Petition Form](#) and all supporting documents may be submitted either of the following ways:

- By email (scanned attachments) to anorthern@cfdiocese.org

- By mail, as hard copies, to: Attn: Bishop's Office, Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida, 1017 East Robinson Street, Orlando, FL 32801

Once the Bishop has reviewed the Marriage Petition Form, consent to perform the marriage will be forthcoming if no further follow up is needed.

After the Marriage Service

Once the marriage has been solemnized, the officiant must complete and return the [Marriage Performed Notification Form](#), in accordance with Title I, Canon 19, Section 3(c), confirming the date the Bishop's consent was given and the date the marriage took place.

This form may be submitted the same way as the petition materials:

- By email to anorthern@cfdiocese.org
- By mail, to the attention of the Bishop's Office at the address above

A Note on Timing

[TEC Canon I.18.2](#) requires the couple notify the officiant of their intent to marry at least thirty days prior to the wedding. Because Petition materials must then be reviewed and consent obtained from the Bishop, clergy are encouraged to begin this process as early as possible and well in advance of the proposed wedding date.

Questions about this process may be directed to the Bishop's Office at anorthern@cfdiocese.org or 407-423-3567.