Diocesan Policy Regarding Remarriage

Issued – June 2019

Any remarriage in the Episcopal Church is subject to Canon 19.3 and in addition you may assume the following as standard protocol in the Diocese of East Tennessee.

**If one or both persons desiring to be married have divorced once with a former spouse still living, the bishop will grant permission for the marriage if:**

1. Canon 19.3 has been satisfied...(the front page and signature page of divorce decree and request for marriage be submitted to the bishop at least 30 days before intended date of marriage).
2. The couple has undergone counseling by the clergy or a professional counselor.
3. The attached form has been thoughtfully completed and submitted to the bishop.

**If one or both persons desiring to be married have been divorced twice with one or more former spouses still living, no assumption should be made that the bishop will grant the request. Each decision will be made on an individual basis and will be considered by the bishop if:**

1. Canon 19.3 has been satisfied...(the front page and signature page of divorce decree and request for marriage be submitted to the bishop at least 30 days before intended date of marriage).
2. The couple has undergone counseling by the clergy and a professional counselor.
3. All the forms attached (19.3. One and Two) have been completed and submitted to the bishop.
If one or both persons desiring to be married have divorced three or more times, the assumption may be made that the bishop will not grant the request. However, grace demands that we look at each circumstance individually and if extenuating circumstances are present, the request will be reviewed.

1. Canon 19.3 has been satisfied...(the front page and signature page of divorce decree and request for marriage be submitted to the bishop at least 30 days before intended date of marriage).
2. The couple has undergone counseling by the clergy and a professional counselor.
3. All the forms attached (19.3.One and Two) have been completed and submitted to the bishop.

The attached forms are intended to be an aid for clergy as they counsel and direct the couple seeking re-marriage. In filling out the forms with the couple, clergy will receive insight that can guide future sessions with them.
application seeking permission to solemnize a remarriage in the diocese of east tennessee

issued june 2019

please complete and submit all pages at once. sections a through d are to be completed by the priest who plans to solemnize the marriage in conversation with the couple. section e is to be completed by the couple in conversation with the priest.

section a

on ____________________, i, _____________________________ ___________________________ was informed that the couple _____________________________ named below wish to be married at ___________________________________ on ______________

(name of priest)

(name of parish)

(name of date)

section b: information on spouse 1 …please print

name: ___________________________________________ date of birth: ______________________________

address: ______________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

telephone: ______________ (city) ______________ (state) ______________ (zip) ______________ (area code and number)

baptized: ________ denomination: __________________ active member of a church? ______________

how many previous marriages for spouse 1? 0___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 or more ______ if so, please continue

number of previous spouses still living ____

date of previous marriage(s) ________ places: __________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

child(ren) by previous marriage(s): ________ if yes, give ages: ______________________________

date(s) and place(s) of divorce decree(s): ______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

are there any obligations (financial or otherwise) from previous marriage(s) to a spouse(s) or child(ren)?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

are they being honored? ______________ is the intention to continue honoring them? ______________

2
**Section C: Information on Spouse 2…please print**

Name: ___________________________________________ Date of Birth: ___________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: ____________________________________________________________

(City) __________________________ (State) __________________________ (Zip) __________________________ (Area code and Number)

Baptized:_________ Denomination:____________________ Active Member of a Church? _____________

How many previous marriages for Spouse 2?  0___  1 ___  2 ___  3 or more ______ If so, please continue

Number of previous spouses still living ____

Date of previous marriage(s) ________________ Places: __________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________

Child(ren) by previous marriage(s): ________ If yes, give ages: __________________________________________________________________________________________

Date(s) and Place(s) of Divorce Decree(s): ____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Are there any obligations (financial or otherwise) from previous marriage(s) to a spouse(s) or child(ren)?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Are they being honored? _____________ Is the intention to continue honoring them? ________________________

**Section D: To be filled out by the Priest**

How long has this couple known one another?_______ How long have you known them? ________________

Have you examined the Divorce Decree(s)?: __________ Date of decree(s): ______________________________

Did you provide the pre-marital counseling? __________________________ If not, who did_____________________

Number of sessions?_____

What do you to believe to be the most helpful insight the couple learned in the counseling process?__________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

If either party has more than one divorce… please attach statement from professional counselor stating findings and opinion from the counselor regarding the suitability of the couple for marriage.

Priests additional comments:

(If you need more space m please use the back of this form)
Section E: To be filled out by the couple

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
When two people come to the Church seeking its blessing at the celebration of their marriage it is our understanding that they are then inviting the Church to be a participant in their marital union. Accepting this invitation we seek to instruct them as to the nature, meaning and purpose of Holy Matrimony as Christians understand it following the model given us by the relationship between Christ and His Church. Further, we offer as a community of faith and love, to support them in their marriage in the years ahead.

Following the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, the priest who is to solemnize the marriage of a divorced person is required to consult with and obtain the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese prior to the wedding ceremony.

The purpose of this application is to ascertain the intention of the couple with regard to their relationship to the Church, that the bishop might give his consent in good conscience.

Having read the above, and in consultation with your priest, please take time to discuss and answer the following questions.

1. When relationships fail, the failure is rarely one-sided. Have you discussed with your priest, and your fiancé, your part in the failure of your previous marriage(s)?
   
   Spouse 1: yes _____ no ______ n/a_______
   Spouse 2: yes ___ no _____ n/a_______

2. As a couple, please describe what role you see the Church playing in your new relationship, and how you plan to participate in the life of the Church? (If you need more space, please use the back of this form)

3. Is there any additional information you would like the bishop to know?
   (If you need more space, please use the back of this form)

The following is to be signed by both individuals of the intended marriage.

We, _________________________________ and _________________________________ desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of two adults as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We believe that this union, in heart, body and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God’s will for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God’s help thereto.

Signed: _______________________________ and _______________________________ Date: __________
RECORD OF MARRIAGE

To The Rt. Rev. Brian L. Cole,
Bishop of East Tennessee:

This will certify that on ____________________________ (Date)

I did solemnize the marriage of

_________________________________________ and ____________________________________

at

____________________________________________________________________________ (Church and City)

The Bishop's consent was given on

_______________________________. (Date)

Signature of Clergyperson Officiating

_______________________________. (Date)

Within five days of the marriage, please return this Record of Marriage to:

Mrs. Laura L. Nichols, Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee, 814 Episcopal School Way, Knoxville, TN 37932