

MARRIAGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS (when a former spouse is living)

- Part ONE: Couple's Information *
- Part TWO: Regarding the Former Marriage(s)
- Part THREE: The Current Relationship Seeking Marriage
- Part FOUR: Regarding Children of Previous Relationships
- Part FIVE: In the Case of an Applicant Previously Widowed
- Part SIX: Declaration by the Applicants *
- Report to the Bishop: Report of the Incumbent *

* to the Bishop in five days following incumbent's decision

Introduction: The Preparation Process

1. Preparation for marriage follows the direction of [Canon XXI](#) of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.
2. It is the Bishop's assumption that in the case of the marriage of individuals of other Christian denominations or other religious faiths that at least one of the couple is a member of the "Anglican Church" (see Canon One). Those residing outside of the Diocese who request a marriage ceremony by a cleric of the Diocese should seek preparation in their Diocese of residence and have their own incumbent request an officiant to act on his or her behalf.
3. The process for application for marriage according to the rites of the Church begins when a couple seeking the Sacrament of Marriage discloses there has been a divorce with a former spouse surviving.
4. The incumbent outlines the Church's care for individuals entering marriage after divorce, including:
 - a) the importance of the celebration of the Sacrament;
 - b) the Church's commitment to helping individuals face and avoid any patterns of behaviour which might repeat themselves, by looking in detail at the previous marriage(s);
 - c) the process of receiving permission after the completion of the questionnaires and interviews;
 - d) the requirement for proof of legal status accomplished by the presentation of original certificate of divorce (also required to obtain a Province of New Brunswick marriage license) and original divorce judgement;

- e) the Report to the Bishop of the decision either granting or delaying permission;
5. The couple is given the questionnaire forms (Parts ONE to SIX), for the completion of their responses at their convenience.
 6. The preparing minister holds further conversations with the couple during which all responses are discussed.
 7. Faith instruction may be included as necessary, and usual marriage preparation devices (such as [Prepare/Enrich](#)) are strongly recommended.
 8. The incumbent or preparing minister makes a determination based on the applicants' response to the marriage questionnaire and subsequent conversations with them.
 9. The incumbent or preparing minister communicates that decision, in writing by submitting Part ONE - "Couple's Information," Part SIX - "Declaration" and the "Report of the Incumbent" to the Bishop as soon as possible and at least within five office days of presenting it to the couple. The incumbent shall keep a copy of the parts submitted for the couple's file and until the marriage is solemnized.
 10. The incumbent or preparing minister meets with the couple to share the decision and the reasons for it.
 11. If the incumbent or preparing minister is not to be the officiant, he or she shall write to the officiating priest certifying that the process has been duly completed and explaining the decision.
 12. If the proposed marriage is to be solemnized in a church or a location outside of the parish of the officiating minister, the officiating minister must first obtain the permission of the incumbent of where the marriage is to take place and certify that the process of preparation and approval has been followed.

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