

# MARRIAGE PROCEDURES

For those who have experienced a previous divorce

DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE

Box 841, Schumacher, Ontario P0N 1G0

Telephone: (705) 360-1129, Fax (705) 360-1120

Dear Friends:

The Matrimonial Commission of the Diocese of Moosonee, originally established as a pastoral body under Canon XXI of the Anglican Church of Canada, was dissolved following a decision made by the Synod of the Diocese of Moosonee in June, 2005. The role of the Rector or Officiant at proposed marriages is to assist the Bishop in his decisions concerning applications to marry in the Church after a divorce. To enable the accomplishment of this sensitive pastoral task, information is requested which you may find difficult, perhaps even painful, to give. Yet may we encourage you to make your answers as complete as you are able.

The following list may help to specify the information requested in the application:

1. What do you understand to be the causes of the breakdown of your marriage?
2. What efforts did you make towards reconciliation?
3. What is your present mental, emotional, and spiritual state as a result of the divorce?
4. What new wisdom are you able to apply to your new relationship that gives hope for its success?
5. Is your former spouse independent or receiving support?
6. How are you providing for the well-being of any dependent children from your former marriage?
7. Why do you want to be married in the Anglican Church?
8. What on-going spiritual support have you for yourselves?

We expect that those responsible for helping you prepare for your marriage are persons dedicated to the well-being of those whom they serve. You may be certain, therefore, that your application will be received and reviewed with dignity, care, and loving concern.

*\*The information given in the application form will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to any person other than those whose participation is necessary for a decision on the application.*

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Caleb J. Lawrence  
Archbishop of Moosonee

Revised June, 2007

## TO THE PASTOR

The purpose of this application is to emphasize the pastoral aspect of the application process, particularly in the area of follow-up after the proposed marriage.

The application package now includes:

1. A letter to the applicant and their parish priest.
2. A declaration to be signed by the applicant and their parish priest.
3. Family data sheet to be completed and signed by the applicants.
4. Two questionnaires:
  - a. One to be completed and signed by the male applicant;
  - b. One to be completed and signed by the female applicant.

***\*Divorced applicants should complete all parts of the questionnaire. Others should complete paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 under the heading “Family Data”, and paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 7, and 8 under the heading “General”.***

5. A report of the incumbent to be completed and signed by the priest.

**The application is to be completed and submitted to the Bishop at least 90 days prior to the proposed marriage date, together with:**

- a) Photocopies of the Decree Divorce Judgement/Certificate of Divorce, in the divorce proceedings or last divorce proceedings, and
- b) A photocopy of the Decree Absolute or Certificate of Divorce in each previous divorce proceedings, if the former spouse is still living, and
- c) A photocopy of any court order now in effect or Separation Agreement or Agreement for Maintenance of a former spouse or dependent children.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PASTORAL USE OF THIS APPLICATION

1. Arrange a meeting with the couple in which you explain Anglican requirements to them personally. You will probably need two or more meetings.
2. Have as your primary aim in this interview to establish open and warm communication with the couple so that they realize that the Church is concerned for them, and desires to help them as they seek Christian marriage as understood in the preface to Canon 21.
3. After you have established this rapport, explain to them the procedures under Part IV of the Canon, and the Declaration on page 4 of this application.
4. Please note that the questions are designed to be as simple as possible. But naturally they will, if thoroughly discussed, give rise to others. For example, in discussing support, you will want to know that they believe their proposed marriage to be financially viable in the light of continuing commitments to child support. Or, in discussing the questions you may wish to ask them if they have thought through any changes in Wills which may be appropriate. The factors listed in Schedule E to the Canon are relevant in all marriages.
5. By the conclusion of the second meeting you will normally be in possession of the information required for the incumbent's report; or you may wish to make enquiries of other sources or to have additional meetings before completing it.
6. When there has been a divorce, a license is necessary, although bans may be called as well. When the divorce is granted in a foreign country, additional formality is required and a lawyer should be consulted by the applicants.
7. **We stress that this entire procedure is pastoral**, in that it enables an incumbent to minister to parishioners, that is, all persons resident in the parish, whether Anglican or not, and others who come sincerely desiring ministry.
8. Problems sometimes arise when couples seeking marriage are not living in the Diocese in which they wish their marriage to be solemnized. In such cases, the pastoral care of the people involved requires that the incumbent should undertake the appropriate interviews and documentation on behalf of the incumbents who are to solemnize these marriages. Incumbents applied to should correspond with incumbents solemnizing so that the latter may be confident in conscientiously endorsing applications prepared by the former.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO MARRY  
ACCORDING TO THE RITES OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA  
AFTER CIVIL DIVORCE  
WHILE A FORMER SPOUSE OF EITHER APPLICANT IS STILL LIVING**

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(FULL NAME) (FULL NAME)

wish to be married in the Church of \_\_\_\_\_

in the parish of \_\_\_\_\_

Since I/we \_\_\_\_\_  
am/are divorced, we are making an application to the Bishop of the Diocese of Moosonee  
for permission to be married according to the rites of the Anglican Church of Canada.

**DECLARATION  
(Schedule A of Canon 21)**

WE HEREBY DECLARE that we intend to enter into marriage which we acknowledge to be a union in faithful love, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for better or for worse, until we are separated by death.

WE UNDERTAKE to prepare ourselves for the exchange of vows at our wedding, recognizing that this mutual exchange our union in marriage will be established.

WE INTEND to strive thereafter to fulfill purpose of marriage: the mutual friendship, support and comfort to one another, the procreation (if it may be) and the nurture of children, and the creation of a relationship in which sexuality may serve personal fulfilment in a community of faithful love.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF MALE APPLICANT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF FEMALE APPLICANT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(INCUMBENT OR PERSON INTENDING  
TO OFFICIATE A PROPOSED MARRIAGE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**TO BE COMPLETED BY MALE APPLICANT**

Divorced applicants should complete all parts of the questionnaire. Others should complete paragraphs 1, 2, 3, & 4 under the heading “Family Data”, and paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 7, & 8 under the heading “General”.

**FAMILY DATA**

- 1. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2. Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parish or other Christian Community, if any: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4. Marital Status:    \_\_\_ Single       \_\_\_ Widowed       \_\_\_ Divorced

If divorced, please provide the following information:

- (a) Age and marital status at time of previous marriage:  
\_\_\_ Single    \_\_\_ Widowed       \_\_\_ Divorced
  
- (b) Name and age of previous spouse at time of marriage:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_       Age: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- (c) Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- (d) Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- (e) Date of Separation: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- (f) Date of Decree Absolute / Certificate of Divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Children of Previous Marriage:

Name	Age	Custody Arrangements
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

6. Any other Children:

Name

Age

Living Arrangements

Name	Age	Living Arrangements
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

7. To your knowledge, has former spouse remarried or entered into a co-habitational relationship? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO.

8. If not, to your knowledge, is former spouse self-supporting?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO.

### GENERAL

Additional pages may be attached if there is insufficient space for your response to any question.

1. Why do you wish to be married in the Church?

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2. If you are divorced, please outline your understanding of:

(a) The cause that led to the breakdown of this marriage.

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(b) Your attempts to seek help and reconciliation

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(c) Please state your financial responsibilities (if applicable) to your former spouse:

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(d) If you have such responsibilities, how are they being satisfied?

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3. How long have you known the person you wish to marry?

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4. What are your reasons for believing that your marriage will be stable?

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5. Mention anything learned from your experience and knowledge of the broken marriage that you see as being helpful in this new relationship.

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6. If you are divorced and have children from that union:

(a) Do you foresee any changes in the custody or current living arrangements of those children?

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(b) What are your financial responsibilities to the children, and, if there are any, how are they being satisfied?

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(c) What is the attitude of each child to your proposed marriage?

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7. What resources would you draw upon to solve problems and strengthen your new family life?

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8. Is there any other information which you would like to provide that will be of assistance to the Bishop?

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SIGNATURE

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DATE [dd/mm/yy]

**TO BE COMPLETED BY FEMALE APPLICANT**

Divorced applicants should complete all parts of the questionnaire. Others should complete paragraphs 1, 2, 3, & 4 under the heading “Family Data”, and paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 7, & 8 under the heading “General”.

**FAMILY DATA**

- 1. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2. Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parish or other Christian Community, if any: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4 Marital Status:     \_\_\_ Single       \_\_\_ Widowed       \_\_\_ Divorced

If divorced, please provide the following information:

- (a) Age and marital status at time of previous marriage:  
\_\_\_ Single     \_\_\_ Widowed     \_\_\_ Divorced
  
- (b) Name and age of previous spouse at time of marriage:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- (c) Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- (d) Place of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- (e) Date of Separation: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- (f) Date of Decree Absolute / Certificate of Divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Children of Previous Marriage:

Name	Age	Custody Arrangements
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

6. Any other Children:

Name

Age

Living Arrangements

Name	Age	Living Arrangements
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

7. To your knowledge, has former spouse remarried or entered into a co-habitational relationship? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO.

8. If not, to your knowledge, is former spouse self-supporting?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO.

### GENERAL

Additional pages may be attached if there is insufficient space for your response to any question.

1. Why do you wish to be married in the Church?

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2. If you are divorced, please outline your understanding of:

(a) The cause that led to the breakdown of this marriage.

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(d) If you have such responsibilities, how are they being satisfied?

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6. If you are divorced and have children from that union:

(a) Do you foresee any changes in the custody or current living arrangements of those children?

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(c) What is the attitude of each child to your proposed marriage?

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7. What resources would you draw upon to solve problems and strengthen your new family life?

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8. Is there any other information which you would like to provide that will be of assistance to the Bishop?

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SIGNATURE

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DATE [dd/mm/yy]

**REPORT OF THE INCUMBENT**

Regarding the application of: \_\_\_\_\_

& \_\_\_\_\_

for permission to be married according to the rites of the Anglican Church of Canada in the Diocese of Moosonee.

Proposed date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Officiant: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer in reasonable detail....

1. Please state how long and in what circumstances you have known the applicants.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you any other source of information related to the applicants?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you satisfied with the information you have received?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. (a) Please state your understanding of the cause for the breakdown of the former marriage(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 (b) Do you believe that the divorced applicant(s) is/are dealing responsibly well with all aspects of the broken family relationship(s)?

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5. What is your estimate of the probably stability of the proposed marriage?

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6 If the applicants are not parishioners, to your knowledge what provisions or arrangements are there for pastoral follow-up?

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7. Are you willing to make arrangements for the solemnization in your parish?

YES  NO

8. Please include any other comments which you think may be helpful to the Bishop.

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9. Do you recommend approval of this application?  YES  NO

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SIGNATURE

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DATE [dd/mm/yy]

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PARISH