

Instructions for Completing an Application for Judgment of Marital Status and/or Permission to Solemnize a Marriage

This form need only be used when a person or persons contact a Member of the Clergy to inquire about their marital status or about re-marriage in the Church. This form is designed to work in tandem with THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES.

Part 1 of this form is an APPLICATION FOR JUDGMENT OF MARITAL STATUS. Part 2 is an APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO SOLEMNIZE A MARRIAGE. Canonically, these are two separate actions, but for convenience, this form deals with both actions in one form.

Part 1 is to be filled out by the person(s) seeking a judgment of marital status, which judgment is required by and covered in Canon 1.19 of the Church's general canons. A member of the clergy should assist the applicant in filling out Part 1. Only a person previously married need submit Part 1, but if both parties to a proposed marriage have previously been married, then **each must separately submit Part 1.**

In *Section A* of Part 1, the applicant is to provide background information about former marriage(s). One *Section A* should be filled out for each previous marriage.

In *Section B* of Part 1, the applicant is to provide facts about the end of previous marriages. One *Section B* should be filled out for each previous marriage.

Part 2 of this form is the Member of the Clergy's request for PERMISSION TO SOLEMNIZE A MARRIAGE. Again, this form is only for use when someone seeking to be married in the Church has been a previously married.

Application for A Judgment of Marital Status and/or Permission to Solemnize a Marriage

(The Bishop requires 30 days to issue a judgment on this application)

Application Date: _____ **Proposed Ceremony Date** (if applicable): _____

PART 1. APPLICATION FOR A JUDGMENT OF MARITAL STATUS

I, the undersigned, hereby apply to the Bishop of the Diocese of West Missouri for a judgment of my marital status per Canon I.19 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. I offer the following information to enable the Bishop to render judgment.

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Baptized? (check one): Yes No

Confirmed Adult Communicant? (check one): Yes No

Present church membership? Yes No

Name: _____

Specific Location: _____

Section A. CONCERNING MY FORMER MARRIAGE

(Fill out an additional *Section A* for each additional, previous marriage)

Full Name of Previous Spouse (including maiden name, if applicable):

Date of Marriage: _____

Place of Marriage (name of Church or other location with address, city, & state):

Name and Title of Person Officiating:

Ages at time of marriage - Applicant: _____ Spouse: _____

Number of this marriage - Applicant: _____ Spouse: _____

Did you receive pre-marital counseling and instruction from a clergy person or other counselor? If so, please describe its nature and duration. (Use additional sheets if necessary.)

Church membership at the time of marriage:

Applicant: _____

Spouse: _____

What were the reasons this marriage ended? What attempts, if any, were made to save it? (Use additional sheets if necessary.)

Section B. CONCERNING A DIVORCE OR DISSOLUTION OF PREVIOUS MARRAIGE

(Fill out a *Section B* for each previous marriage)

Date of final decree ending the marriage: _____

Jurisdiction and location of court issuing the decree: _____

Name of Judge who signed the decree: _____

Name(s) and birthdate(s) of child(ren) by this marriage:

If applicable, how has the applicant shown “continuing concern for the well-being of the former spouse and of any children of the prior marriage”? (See Canon 1.19.3(b))

Note: According to Title I, Canon 19, Sect. 2(a), “no judgment by the Bishop shall be construed as affecting in any way the legitimacy of children or the civil validity of the former marriage”.

Section C. ATTESTATIONS

I have read the foregoing material and believe it to be true, to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date signed: _____

PART 2. APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO SOLEMNIZE A MARRIAGE

Per Canon I.19, I, the undersigned Member of the Clergy of The Episcopal Church, hereby apply for permission to provide the ministry detailed below.

Section A. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS APPLICATION?

- Judgment concerning marital status of the petitioner in the eyes of the Episcopal Church. (If this is the purpose, only Part 1 need be submitted.)
- Permission to have an existing marriage blessed by a Priest of this Church. (If this is the purpose, please fill out Section B below.)
- Permission to have the Church solemnize a marriage within the Diocese of West Missouri. (If this is the purpose, please fill out Section B below.)

Section B. CONCERNING A PROPOSED MARRIAGE

Information about the persons desiring to marry:

Full Name of First Party: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place: _____

Full Name of Second Party: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place: _____

Proposed Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

Section C. PASTORAL ENDORSEMENT

Name of Member of the Clergy: _____

Parish or congregation served: _____ City: _____

Church or location where the solemnization will take place: _____

In a separate document, describe the length and nature of your counseling with this person or couple. Share the reasons why you think the couple will have a faithful, life-long marriage based in an ethic of self-giving love that is consistent with the purposes of marriage stated in the Prayer Book and with the teaching of the Church as specified in the Declaration of Intent.

- I have personally examined all divorce decrees of the previous marriages and have ascertained that both parties have the right to marry according to the laws of Missouri.
- I have determined that both parties consent freely without fraud, coercion, mistake as to the identity of either, or mental reservation.
- I confirm that at least one is baptized.
- I have instructed the couple (or have caused them to receive instruction from a competent and responsible person) about the nature, purpose, and meaning of marriage, as well as the rights, duties, and responsibilities of marriage.
- If applicable (when any party has more than one divorce or dissolution), I have referred the couple to a professional counselor to obtain a corroborating opinion about the probability of the couple having a faithful, life-long marriage based in an ethic of self-giving love and consistent with the purposes of marriage stated in the Prayer Book and with the teaching of the Church as specified in the Declaration of Intent, and I have included a letter from that counselor with this form.
- I have caused any formerly married party to this proposed marriage to write a letter to the Bishop to share what he or she has learned from the former marriage(s) that would enable her or him successfully to live out the intentions of the Declaration of Intent as well as the vows they propose to exchange during the celebration of their marriage.
- I have ensured that each party has signed the Declaration of Intent (see Canon I.18.4).
- I have instructed the parties – if any previous spouse is still living – that continuing concern must be shown for the well-being of former spouses and any children of former marriages.
- I have ensured that at least two persons will witness the solemnization and sign the register.
- I will report to the Bishop within ten days after solemnization.

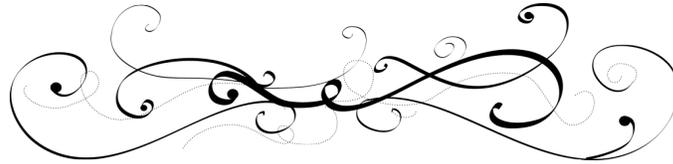
I believe that all of the foregoing statements are true, to the best of my knowledge, and I request the Bishop of West Missouri to grant me permission to solemnize the aforementioned marriage.

Signature of Priest: _____

Church: _____

Date: _____

Declaration of Intent



We,

and

understand the teaching of the church
that God's purpose for our marriage
is for our mutual joy,
for the help and comfort we will give to each other in our
prosperity and adversity,
and, when it is God's will,
for the gift and heritage of children
and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God.

We also understand
that our marriage is to be unconditional,
mutual, exclusive, faithful and lifelong;
and we engage to make the utmost effort
to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties,
with the help of God
and the support of our community.