



The Diocese of Fond du Lac

The Episcopal Church in northeast Wisconsin

Application for Marriage Judgment

Dear Applicant:

This form is a request for permission to have a marriage solemnized in an Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Fond du Lac where one party or both have had a former marriage dissolved by a civil court.

When you ask to be married in the Church, you are inviting the Church to be a partner in this marriage. We assume from this invitation that you feel the Christian community will be an essential part of your life together. The Church and its fellowship of faith can be a wonderful support for any marriage relationship, and we hope that as you look at your life together, the Church will play an important role in it.

The Canons of the Church are very clear about remarriage in the Church. At least one of the couple must be an actively involved member of a local Episcopal congregation (this means attending worship consistently for at least six months prior to filing this application), that any support for a former spouse or child(ren) from the previous marriage must be up to date and shall continue (alimony payments or child support), that the clergy shall instruct the couple on the Church's understanding of Christian marriage, and that this request shall be filled out in consultation with the clergy who has been asked to solemnize the marriage. This request must be in the hands of the Bishop not later than 60 days prior to the proposed marriage, and no date for the marriage shall be announced (orally or in writing) until written permission for the marriage to take place has been received.

Bishop of Fond du Lac

PART 1 (for the Priest)

The priest, who has been asked to perform the ceremony, shall submit a cover letter with this application stating in the priest's own words:

- a. a personal judgment as to the reasons for the failure of the previous marriage(s).
- b. a personal recommendation regarding this Application, clearly stating whether or not there is a willingness to officiate at the proposed marriage, if approval is given.
- c. that both parties will be instructed in the teachings of the Church regarding the nature and meaning of Christian marriage.
- d. that a certified copy of the Divorce Decree has been seen, indicating the date the Divorce was granted. Please do not send a copy of the decree.

PART 2 (General Information to be answered by the “Petitioner”)

1. Full Name _____
2. Address _____
3. City, State, Zip Code _____
4. Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
5. Have you been Baptized? _____ In what Denomination? _____
6. Located in (City) _____ (State) _____
7. Have you been Confirmed? _____ In what Parish? _____
8. Located in (City) _____ (State) _____
9. Are you regular in your participation in the worship and life of the Church? _____
Which parish? _____ Located in (city) _____
How long have you been an active member of this congregation? _____

PART 3 (Information about the previous marriage to be answered by the person that was previously married) *If both parties were previously married, please copy Part 3 and each person fill one out.*

1. Name of former spouse _____
2. Date of previous marriage _____ Date of Divorce _____
3. Place of previous marriage _____
4. Location (City & State) _____
5. Officiating Minister _____
6. When did you cease living with your previous spouse? _____
7. Was counseling sought to save the previous marriage (explain)? _____

8. If so, by whom and for how long? _____

9. Were children born of this marriage? _____ Current ages _____ _____ _____ _____

10. Who has legal custody of the children? _____

11. Do you have any legal responsibilities for your former spouse or child(ren), and are you current in fulfilling these responsibilities?

12. Please explain what you see as the chief reasons for the breakdown of your previous marriage:

13. What, specifically, did you do or fail to do that contributed to the breakdown of your previous marriage?

14. Have the factors in question #13 been effectively dealt with and, if so, how?

PART 4 (to be answered by both parties to the proposed marriage)

1. Information about the person not listed in PART 2 as the petitioner:
 - a. Full Name _____
 - b. Address _____
 - c. City, State, Zip Code _____
 - d. Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
 - e. This person: ()was never married ()is divorced ()is a widow or widower
 - f. This person: was Baptized? _____ was Confirmed? _____
 - g. Is a member of what Church? _____
 - h. Located in (city) _____ (State) _____
 - i. Is he/she an active member? _____ For how long? _____
2. We have known each other for _____ years. We met in the following manner: _____

3. We desire permission to be married on (date) _____
at (Church) _____ in (City) _____
by the Reverend _____
4. Since you desire a Christian marriage, what role do you see the Church playing in your marriage relationship following the ceremony? (Please discuss this with the priest before answering the question)

5. The Church requires that couples contemplating marriage sign the following Declaration of Intention. (Please review the meaning of this statement with the priest, and then both parties must sign this or the application will be returned.)

*“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 husband and wife as it is set
forth in the Liturgical forms authorized by this Church. We believe it is for the
purpose of mutual fellowship, encouragement and understanding, for the procreation
(if it may be) of children, and their physical and spiritual nurture, for the
safeguarding and benefit of society. 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 there
to.”*

Signature

Signature

6. Please add any information about previous marriages or the proposed marriage that might be helpful to the Bishop in making a decision upon this request:

7. I herewith request the Bishop’s judgment in this matter, and request permission to have our marriage solemnized by a Priest of the Episcopal Church

Date _____ Signed _____
Petitioner