

**Diocese of Georgia: Priest's Petition
for Bishop's Consent to Solemnize
a Marriage after Divorce or Annulment**
(Canon I.19.2a)



Date: _____

Petition submitted by:

The Reverend _____

Parish _____

Email _____

Telephone (_____) _____

To the Bishop, I petition for consent to solemnize the marriage of

(Name) _____

prior marriage ended in divorce/annulment (date: _____)

(Name) _____

prior marriage ended in divorce/annulment (date: _____)

The proposed date of the marriage solemnization is: _____

(Circle "Yes" or "No" to every question. Where "No" is circled, attach a full explanation.)

Yes No 1. I have met in person with both parties. They are engaged in a satisfactory program of premarital counseling led by a counselor who is experienced in working with those who are divorced and are discerning re-marriage.

Yes No 2. Each party has signed the Declaration of Intention.

Yes No 3. At least one of the parties is baptized.

Yes No 4. I have inquired of the couple whether they have consulted another priest of this church regarding the proposed marriage. If they have, I have consulted that priest prior to submitting this petition.

Yes No 5. I have examined the final decree(s) of divorce or annulment. I certify that based on my examination the prior marriage(s) is lawfully dissolved.

- Yes No 6. In my judgment the couple intends a true Christian marriage.
- Yes No 7. I have discussed with the couple their readiness for Christian marriage.
- Yes No 8. In my judgment each has realistically faced and evaluated the causes of the failure of the previous marriage(s).
- Yes No 9. I am satisfied that each party has an adequate continuing concern for the previous spouse and appropriate financial support for any minor children.
- Yes No 10. In my judgment their marriage is likely to demonstrate a sign of the spiritual union between Christ and his Church.
- Yes No 11. I am willing to solemnize the marriage if consent is granted.
- Yes No 12. I am satisfied that the couple (or at least one party with the support of the other) intends to live out their marriage in the community of the Church.
- Yes No 13. At least one calendar year has elapsed since the date(s) of final decree(s).
- Yes No 14. All matters of property and custody have been settled.
- Yes No 15. I have appropriately discussed with this couple any differences they bring to the marriage in terms of age, income, religious discipline, patterns of conflict, or ongoing family concerns.

The following question is for situations where either or both parties have been divorced (or had marriages annulled) more than once.

- Yes No 16. I have received from a professional counselor a statement concerning this couple. The statement is attached along with my explanatory letter.

I request consent of the bishop for me to solemnize this marriage.

Signature of Priest

PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED for the solemnization of a marriage between the persons named herein on or after the following date: _____

Given under my hand and seal this date _____

The Right Reverend Scott Anson Benhase, Bishop of Georgia