

**DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA**  
Application to the Bishop for Consent to Solemnize  
a Marriage after Divorce or Annulment

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF THIS FORM:**

- a. Following the instructions of each section, complete all blanks except the "From the Bishop" section.
- b. Mail to: The Bishop's Office -Consent  
600 Talbot Hall Road  
Norfolk VA 23505-4361
- c. This form will be returned to you with the bishop's approval or refusal.
- d. Allow at least **30 days** for processing after this application has been received by the Bishop's Office; otherwise, send a written request for waiver of the requirement.
- e. After the wedding, send in the enclosed verification form.

**APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY (please print):**

The \_\_\_\_ Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Dear Bishop, I apply for consent to solemnize the marriage of:**

_____ (Print bride's full name)	_____ (Print groom's full name)
<input type="checkbox"/> single	<input type="checkbox"/> single
<input type="checkbox"/> divorced by a civil court	<input type="checkbox"/> divorced by a civil court
___ number of previous marriages	___ number of previous marriages
Decree(s) date(s): _____ _____	Decree(s) date(s): _____ _____
Proposed date of marriage _____ 20 ____; place _____	

---

**FROM THE BISHOP:**

This records my permission for you to solemnize the marriage of the above-named couple. Please assure them of my prayers and warm best wishes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese

\_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_

**SECTION A**

Circle "yes" or "no" to every question. **For each "no" circled, attach a full explanation.**

- |     |    |     |  |
|-----|----|-----|--|
| Yes | No | 1.  | I have met in person with both parties, and they are engaged in a program of premarital counseling satisfactory to me, or they have met in person with a clergy person of this church satisfactory to me and I have consulted that clergy person and am assured that they are engaged in a program of premarital counseling. |
| Yes | No | 2.  | Each party has signed the Declaration of Intention. <i>(It is not necessary to mail these to the bishop if you have seen them.)</i>  |
| Yes | No | 3.  | At least one of the parties is baptized.   |
| Yes | No | 4.  | I have inquired of the parties whether they have consulted any other clergy person of this church regarding the proposed marriage, and if they have, I have personally consulted that clergy person prior to submitting this petition.   |
| Yes | No | 5.  | I have personally examined the final decree(s) of divorce or annulment, and I certify that on the basis of my examination the prior marriage(s) is/are lawfully dissolved.   |
| Yes | No | 6.  | I believe these parties intend a true Christian marriage.  |
| Yes | No | 7.  | I have thoroughly discussed each party's personal readiness for marriage with them, or such discussion has occurred in a counseling program satisfactory to me.  |
| Yes | No | 8.  | I believe each has realistically faced and evaluated the cause(s) of the deaths of the previous marriage(s).   |
| Yes | No | 9.  | I am satisfied that each party has an adequate continuing concern for the previous spouse(s) and any children.   |
| Yes | No | 10. | I believe the marriage of this couple is likely to be a demonstrable sign of the spiritual union between Christ and His church.  |
| Yes | No | 11. | I am willing to solemnize the marriage if consent is granted.  |

*(Proceed to Section B)*

**SECTION B**

- 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 with the support of the Christian community as participants in some congregation 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 discussed with this couple, to the degree I believe to be appropriate, differences, if any, in age, income, religious discipline, patterns of conflict; and, especially for older couples with grown children, whether a written, pre-nuptial agreement on disposition of assets, property, or other estate planning would be appropriate for them to consider (or, such discussion of those issues has occurred in a counseling program satisfactory to me).

**The following question is for situations where either or both parties has/have been divorced (or marriage annulled) more than once.**

- Yes No N/A 16. I have received from a professional counselor a statement concerning this couple, and the statement is attached along with an explanatory letter from me.

**NOTE:** Where questions 1-15 are answered "yes" and question 16 is not applicable, no additional material is required to accompany the application.

---

Signature of clergy person submitting application