



THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Guidelines for Application for Remarriage

(per Title I, Canon 19, of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church)

- 1) The divorce must be finalized at least thirty days before the planned date of remarriage. Please communicate to the couple that the bishop will expect to have thirty days to consider the application.
- 2) A copy of the final divorce decree should accompany the priest's application.
- 3) Counseling of the couple should be accomplished by the priest or someone acceptable to the priest.

Issues identified by the canons should be included in the counseling sessions – especially that issues from the previous marriage have been concluded, that concern is being expressed for the former spouse and any children involved, and that the likelihood of success of the proposed marriage is strong. A summary of such counseling sessions should be included with the application.

- 4) The priest's request and recommendation for action by the bishop must also be included.
- 5) As stated in Canon I.18.4, 'It shall be within the discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this Church to decline to solemnize any marriage.'

Please submit to the diocesan office the above information, in a letter written to the bishop by the priest, and include the copy of the final divorce decree. Upon receipt and review of the application, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley will respond with a letter to the priest. It is expected that the priest will write to the Diocesan Office when this marriage has been performed.

Please submit to: The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
 PO Box 20485
 Charleston, SC 29413