

DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE
GUIDELINES, TITLE I, CANON 19,
PETITION FOR GODLY JUDGMENT

Your letter of petition to the bishop should include this information:

- * Appropriate personal information about the couple, including names, ages and church memberships;
- * An indication of the extent of pastoral counseling accomplished;
- * A summary of discussion about matters listed in Title I, Canon 18, Sections 1-3.

In addition to the information furnished in your letter to the bishop, please send signed copies of the divorce decree(s), and please also send a signed copy of the "Declaration of Intention (I,18,3,e-g)." No additional forms need to be included with your application.

Particular attention in counseling should be shown for the well-being of the former spouse(s) and of any children of the prior marriage(s).

As a rule, requests for judgment should be made no sooner than one year after the final divorce decree has been granted. Applications for a shorter period should state reasons for the exception.

Application for the bishop's consent shall normally be made by the applicant's rector. When the officiating clergy person is not the rector of the applicant, a letter of referral and recommendation from the rector should also be included in the request. If the groom-to-be and bride-to-be are not members of the same Episcopal congregation, endorsement by both rectors should be obtained.

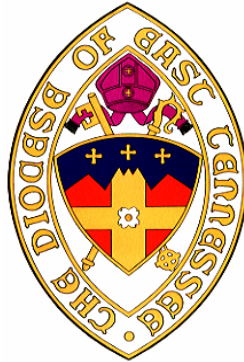
The reviewing of this petition by the bishop may require 30 days. No date for the proposed marriage should be established prior to the receipt of the bishop's favorable judgment.

When consent has been given in another jurisdiction for a marriage that is to be solemnized in the Diocese of East Tennessee, the judgment of that jurisdiction will be accepted. However, a letter requesting the written concurrence of the Bishop of East Tennessee is required.

The priest who is the officiant of a marriage service outside the diocese should request a Godly Judgment from the bishop in whose diocese the marriage will take place.

The solemnization of any marriage under Title I, Canon 19, shall be reported to the bishop within 10 days after the wedding, on the form provided for the judgment.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Declaration of Intention

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, and 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 thereto.

Signature of Groom

Signature of Bride (Maiden Name)

Dated