



MARRIAGE AND REMARRIAGE AFTER DIVORCE IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN KANSAS

Episcopal Church's general rules concerning Holy Matrimony are contained in Title I, Canon 18 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. A copy of Canon I.18, as revised by the 78th general Convention is enclosed. Please read it carefully.

Please note, that as it has always been: **“It shall be within the discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this church to decline to solemnize or bless any marriage” (Canon 1.18 (7)).**

The Episcopal Church's rules for the re-marriage of persons after a divorce are contained on Title I, Canon 19 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. A copy of Canon 1.19 is enclosed. Please read it carefully.

Non-Parishioners

Occasionally Episcopalians go to priest other than their own rector or vicar to seek remarriage after a divorce. It is essential such cases for the priests to consult one another before one of them agrees to officiate at a wedding.

Non-Episcopalians

Sometimes the unchurched or those who are part of another Christian tradition will come to an Episcopal priest to be remarried in the Episcopal Church. Please remember that it is often a desire, perhaps subconscious, to connect with God when people come to church. Please treat these people with the same respect and seriousness that members of our own tradition are treated. Our priests are free, of course to decline to officiate at any such marriage. In any such proposed remarriage, the permission from the bishop is necessary.

Any questions should be addressed to the Bishop of Western Kansas. Also, clergy should see a copy of final divorce decree to make sure they are signed and have been filed with appropriate court.

One final note. Regardless of whether the marriage is performed in a church, outside in a park, the backyard, or wherever, all Canons still apply.

Attached is a check-list for your use, and a copy of the Declaration of Intention, and an information form.

Again, if you have any questions do not hesitate to call the Bishop.

The Diocese of Western Kansas
Marriage Information Form



Date of Application _____

Applicant #1:

Full Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____ # of Previous Marriages _____

Occupation _____

Baptized? _____ Confirmed? _____ Communicant? _____

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Full Maiden Name _____

Applicant #2:

Full Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____ # of Previous Marriages _____

Occupation _____

Baptized? _____ Confirmed? _____ Communicant? _____

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Full Maiden Name _____

Date & Time of Wedding _____

Location for the Wedding _____

Date and Time of Rehearsal _____

Witnesses _____

Holy Communion? _____

Music Selections:

Florist & Phone # _____

Notes:



The Episcopal Diocese of WESTERN KANSAS

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

In accordance with Canon I.18.4

“Prior to the solemnization, the parties shall sign the following Declaration of Intention”.

We understand the teaching of the church that God’s purpose for our marriage is for our mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God’s will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong; and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties, with the help of God and the support of our community.

(Signed)

(Signed)

Date



The Episcopal Diocese of WESTERN KANSAS

NOTES ON MARRIAGE LITURGIES FROM THE ACTIONS OF THE 78TH GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2015.

Due to the actions of the 78th General Convention the Episcopal Church now has 6 different liturgies for marriage. We have the 3 liturgies in the Book of Common Prayer, and 3 Trial Use Liturgies which may be used in same-sex marriages, with some conditions.

“The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage”; *The Blessing of a Civil Marriage*”; and *“An Order for Marriage”*, as found in the 1979 edition of the Book of Common Prayer may be used **only for different-sex couples**. They can not be used for same-sex marriages.

The 2 new trial-use liturgies approved for both different-sex and same-sex marriages are: *“The Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage”*, and *“The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 2”*.

A third trial-use liturgy – *“The Witnessing and blessing of a life-long Covenant”* – is only intended for use with same-sex couples in jurisdiction where same-sex marriage is not legal.

The text for the trial-use liturgies may be found in *“Liturgical Resources 1, Revised and Expanded (I Will Bless You and You Will be a Blessing)”*, which is available from Church Publishing Incorporated (via Cokesbury). This book is also a full report from the Marriage task Force. In addition gift editions of the liturgies for use in the service itself are also available from Church Publishing. Finally, if you are so inclined, there is now a updated Register for Marriages which uses gender-neutral language.

While the trial-use liturgies for marriage are approved for use in Western Kansas, they, like the Prayer Book liturgies, must be used without change or alternation without the approval of the bishop.