

REMARRIAGE QUESTIONNAIRE AND PETITION

NOTE: All petitions should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the proposed wedding date and should be addressed to

The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle
1225 Texas Avenue
Houston, Texas 77002

The following information must be provided:

1. The full names and ages of both parties to the proposed marriage.
2. The name of the Episcopal congregation(s) in which these persons are active members.
3. The name(s) of the former spouse(s).
4. The date(s) of the final divorce decree(s). For a second marriage, a waiting period of one year from the date of the final decree is normally required. If a lengthy separation (in excess of two years) has occurred a six month waiting period *may* be granted. NOTE: If you have seen a copy of the divorce decree it is not necessary to include a copy of the decree with this petition
5. If any children of the divorced spouse are minors, state the court-ordered financial arrangements for their support and whether all such payments are current.
6. Based upon your counseling with the couple include your separate statement as to why the prior marriage(s) failed.

7. Based upon your counseling with the couple include your separate statement as to why they feel the proposed marriage will be different.
8. Based upon your counseling with the couple include a separate statement of your understanding of the manner in which the couple intends to place God at the center of their marriage and home.
9. Based upon your counseling with the couple include a separate statement that you are firmly convinced that the petition should be granted and give your reasons for this opinion.

In the event of a third marriage by either party, the parties to the proposed marriage must consult with a licensed marriage therapist as to their readiness for marriage. The written opinion of the therapist must be conveyed to the petitioning priest and included with the petition to the Bishop.

Insofar as fourth marriages by either party are concerned, no petitions will be considered except under *very* unusual circumstances.

Regarding the blessing of marriages performed by civil authority, the Diocesan Guidelines are as follows: "Marriages may be blessed for those who marry outside the Church once sufficient time has elapsed that would have made it possible for them to apply for remarriage in the Church according to the regular Diocesan Guidelines.

Only a priest can serve as the petitioner in a request for a marital judgment (letters written by others cannot be considered).

NOTE that if the priest making the judgment is not the rector or priest-in-charge of the Church in which the proposed ceremony is to take place, there must also be a letter from that person assuring the Bishop of his or her concurrence with the petition.