

## MARRIAGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS CANON 1981

### Canon 7, 1985<sup>1</sup>

**A canon to regulate the practice and procedure of this church with respect to the marriage of divorced persons.**

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

1. This canon may be cited as the "Marriage of Divorced Persons Canon 1981".
2. In this canon "**divorced person**" means a person who was a party to a marriage which has been dissolved in accordance with law.
3.
  - (1) The marriage of a divorced person shall not be solemnised according to the rites and ceremonies of this Church or by a minister of this Church during the life of the person's former spouse unless, upon application made by the proposed celebrant, the bishop of the diocese in which the marriage is to be solemnised has consented to the solemnisation of the marriage.
  - (2) Where the consent of a bishop is given under sub-section (1), the bishop shall cause notice of the consent to be furnished in writing to the proposed celebrant.
  - (3) The bishop of a diocese shall not consent to the solemnisation of a marriage pursuant to sub-section (1) unless either
    - (a) at least one of the persons proposed to be married ordinarily resides in his diocese, or
    - (b) the bishop of the diocese in which one of the persons proposed to be married ordinarily resides has given his consent to the solemnisation of the marriage.
4. Consent shall not be given by a bishop under this canon unless the bishop and the proposed celebrant are satisfied that the marriage of the divorced person would not contravene the teachings of Holy Scripture or the doctrines and principles of this Church.
5.
  - (1) The bishop of a diocese may make regulations, not inconsistent with ordinances (if any) made under sub-section (2) concerning the practice and procedure in relation to applications under this canon for his consent to the solemnisation of the marriage of a divorced person.

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<sup>1</sup> This canon was passed provisionally as Canon 13(P), 1981.

- (2) The synod of a diocese may, by ordinance, regulate the practice and procedure in relation to applications under this canon for obtaining the consent of the bishop of the diocese to the solemnisation of the marriage of a divorced person.
6. A minister of this Church may refuse to solemnise the marriage of any divorced person during the life of the person's former spouse.
7. The provisions of this canon affect the order and good government of this Church within a diocese and shall not come into force in any diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts it.

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