

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

SCOTTIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Application under Section 4 of Canon XXXI

It must not be assumed that authorisation will be granted but in order that he may have sufficient information before interviewing both the Parish Priest and the Applicants, the Bishop must first receive this form, duly completed, before any arrangements for the proposed marriage are made. Normally three months' notice will be required.

CANON XXXI  
OF THE SOLEMNISATION OF HOLY MATRIMONY

1. The Doctrine of this Church is that Marriage is a physical, spiritual and mystical union of one man and one woman created by their mutual consent of heart, mind and will thereto, and is a holy and lifelong estate instituted of God.
2. No cleric of this Church shall solemnise Matrimony except in accordance with the civil law of Scotland for the time being in force in relation to civil marriages and unless satisfied that compliance has been made with such preliminaries as are therein required for the Solemnising of Religious Marriages.
3. No cleric shall perform the Marriage Service, nor permit it to be performed in Church, for parties who are within the forbidden degrees, as specified in Appendix No.26. No cleric shall perform the Marriage Service, nor permit it to be performed in Church for parties, for one or both of whom a decree of Nullity of Marriage Ab Initio has been pronounced by a Civil Court, nor for parties, either of whom has had a previous marriage dissolved quoad civilia in a Civil Court, so long as the other spouse in the marriage so dissolved remains alive, unless that cleric shall have been given a Certificate of Authorisation on the grounds that there is no ecclesiastical impediment to the marriage in terms of Section 4.
4. In cases where a decree of Nullity of Marriage Ab Initio has been pronounced by a Civil Court, or in any case where either or both parties to a proposed marriage has, or have had, a previous marriage dissolved quoad civilia in a Civil Court, but the other spouse to the marriage remains alive, any cleric to whom an approach is made by or on behalf of either party with a view to the solemnising of such proposed marriage shall refer the matter to the Diocesan Bishop. Upon receiving such reference, the Diocesan Bishop shall make such enquiries into the circumstances of the case, and take such pastoral and legal advice, as shall seem appropriate, and thereafter may issue, or decline to issue, to an officiating cleric, a Certificate of Authorisation in terms of Appendix No.27 authorising that cleric's officiating at the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony of the parties concerned according to the Rites and Ceremonies and Canons of the Scottish Episcopal Church. No Bishop shall entertain an application which has already been before another Diocesan Bishop of the Scottish Episcopal Church without the agreement of the Bishop of that other Diocese and the Episcopal Synod.
5. A cleric may use the form of Benediction provided in the Scottish Book of Common Prayer (1929) to meet the case of those who ask for the benediction of the Church after an irregular marriage has been contracted or after a civil marriage has been legally entered into, provided only that the cleric be satisfied that the marriage is not contrary to Sections 3 and 4 of this Canon.
6. The solemnisation of Marriage shall take place in Church except with the written permission of the Bishop.

**BRIDEGROOM**

NAMES IN FULL..... Date of Birth.....

ADDRESS..... Date and Place  
of Baptism.....

..... Date and Place  
of Confirmation.....

STATE (Bachelor, Widowed, Divorced).....  
Attended..... Church at Present

If WIDOWER Date of death of former partner(s).....

IF NULLITY Date and jurisdiction of decree.....

Grounds of Nullity.....

IF DIVORCED Date and jurisdiction of decree.....

Grounds of Divorce.....

NAMES(S) OF FORMER  
PARTNER(S).....

WAS FORMER PARTNER(S)  
Baptised?.....

Confirmed?.....

**CHILDREN OF FORMER UNION(S)**

Name(s)	Age(s)	Custody	Maintenance
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

OTHER DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN.....

DATE AND PLACE OF FORMER  
UNION(S).....

HAVE YOU MADE A SIMILAR APPLICATION TO ANY BISHOP?.....

I have answered the questions fully and frankly, and have not withheld any relevant information. I wholeheartedly accept the Church's understanding of Christian marriage, as set out in Section 1 of Canon XXXI.

..... (Date).....

**BRIDE**

NAMES IN FULL..... Date of Birth.....

ADDRESS..... Date and Place  
of Baptism.....

..... Date and Place  
of Confirmation.....

STATE (Spinster, Widowed, Divorced)..... Church at Present  
Attended.....

If WIDOWER Date of death of former partner(s).....

IF NULLITY Date and jurisdiction of decree.....

Grounds of Nullity.....

IF DIVORCED Date and jurisdiction of decree.....

Grounds of Divorce.....

NAMES(S) OF FORMER  
PARTNER(S).....

WAS FORMER PARTNER(S)  
Baptised?.....

Confirmed?.....

**CHILDREN OF FORMER UNION(S)**

Name(s)	Age(s)	Custody	Maintenance
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

**OTHER DEPENDENT  
CHILDREN**.....

**DATE AND PLACE OF FORMER  
UNION(S)**.....

**HAVE YOU MADE A SIMILAR APPLICATION TO ANY BISHOP?**.....

I have answered the questions fully and frankly, and have not withheld any relevant information. I wholeheartedly accept the Church's understanding of Christian marriage, as set out in Section 1 of Canon XXXI.

..... (Date).....

**TO BE SIGNED BY THE CLERIC:**

This application form has been completed and signed by both parties in my presence.

..... (Date).....