

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

## **SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

### **Application under Canon 31, Section 3**

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

**Each applicant should complete one page of the following form which must be signed by the cleric.**

#### **CANON 31 OF THE SOLEMNISATION OF HOLY MATRIMONY**

1. In the light of the fact that there are differing understandings of the nature of marriage in this Church, no cleric of this Church shall be obliged to conduct any marriage against their conscience. Any marriage which is to be conducted by a cleric shall be solemnised strictly in accordance with the civil law of Scotland for the time being in force and provided said cleric is satisfied, after appropriate enquiries, that the parties have complied with the necessary preliminaries as set forth in the civil law. 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 26. No cleric shall solemnise a marriage between persons of the same sex unless said cleric shall have been nominated on behalf of the Church to the Registrar General for Scotland.

2. 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 4.3.

3. 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 that 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 and approving 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.

4. 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 2 and 3 of this Canon.

5. The solemnisation of Marriage shall take place in Church except with the written sanction of the Bishop.

## APPLICANT ONE

<b>NAMES IN FULL</b>		<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	
<b>FORMER SURNAMES (if any, including Maiden surname if appropriate)</b>		<b>Date and Place of Baptism</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>		<b>Date and Place of Confirmation</b>	
		<b>Church Present Attended</b> at	

<b>STATE (Spinster/Bachelor, Widowed, Divorced)</b>	
<b>IF WIDOWED</b> <b>Date of death of former partner(s)</b>	
<b>IF NULLITY</b> <b>Date and jurisdiction of decree</b> <b>Grounds of Nullity</b>	
<b>IF DIVORCED</b> <b>Date and jurisdiction of decree</b> <b>Grounds of Divorce</b>	
<b>NAME(S) OF FORMER PARTNER(S)</b>	
<b>WAS FORMER PARTNER(S) Baptised?</b>	YES / NO <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
<b>Confirmed?</b>	YES / NO <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>

<b>CHILDREN OF FORMER UNION(S)</b>			
<b>Name(s)</b>	<b>Age(s)</b>	<b>Custody</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>

<b>OTHER DEPENDENT CHILDREN</b>	
<b>DATE AND PLACE OF FORMER UNION(S)</b>	
<b>HAVE YOU MADE A SIMILAR APPLICATION TO ANY OTHER BISHOP?</b>	YES / NO <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>

I have 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 a faithful and lifelong union.

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

## APPLICANT TWO

<b>NAMES IN FULL</b>		<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	
<b>FORMER SURNAMES (if any, including Maiden surname if appropriate)</b>		<b>Date and Place of Baptism</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>		<b>Date and Place of Confirmation</b>	
		<b>Church Present Attended</b> at	

<b>STATE (Spinster/Bachelor, Widowed, Divorced)</b>	
<b>IF WIDOWED</b> <b>Date of death of former partner(s)</b>	
<b>IF NULLITY</b> <b>Date and jurisdiction of decree</b> <b>Grounds of Nullity</b>	
<b>IF DIVORCED</b> <b>Date and jurisdiction of decree</b> <b>Grounds of Divorce</b>	
<b>NAME(S) OF FORMER PARTNER(S)</b>	
<b>WAS FORMER PARTNER(S) Baptised?</b>	YES / NO <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>
<b>Confirmed?</b>	YES / NO <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>

<b>CHILDREN OF FORMER UNION(S)</b>			
Name(s)	Age(s)	Custody	Maintenance

<b>OTHER DEPENDENT CHILDREN</b>	
<b>DATE AND PLACE OF FORMER UNION(S)</b>	
<b>HAVE YOU MADE A SIMILAR APPLICATION TO ANY OTHER BISHOP?</b>	YES / NO <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>

I have 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 a faithful and lifelong union.

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

**TO BE SIGNED BY THE CLERIC:**

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

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