

## DIOCESE OF KOOTENAY

	<b>This Item</b>	<b>Replaces</b>
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Status: Guidelines and Instructions  
Distribution: All Parishes  
Subject: Information for Priests Registered under the *Marriage Act* of British Columbia

### A. ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA - MARRIAGE CANON XXI

1. All priests must abide by Canon XXI of the Anglican Church of Canada which, among other things, mandates the use of an authorized liturgy of the Anglican Church of Canada, and **assurance that there has been adequate marriage preparation** (this usually takes place through the parish where the bride or groom is living.) In the Diocese of Kootenay as long as one person is baptized and a member of the Anglican Church, approval will usually be given after consultation with the Bishop.

2. In the case of remarriage after divorce it is the responsibility of the officiating priest to ensure that the divorce has been legally finalized and that the couple has considered the emotional, financial and spiritual implications of remarriage. A letter informing the Bishop of Kootenay that such a marriage is planned and due preparation has been undertaken is required. If a person requesting to be married in the Church has been married more than twice, the Bishop's permission is required.

### B. LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER OR CLERGY SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

1. To ensure, **BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE MARRIAGE**, that the clergy person is registered by the Director of Vital Statistics of British Columbia as authorized to solemnize marriage in the Province, and that he or she is in possession of a valid Certificate of Registration. Application for the Certificate of Registration is made through the Diocesan Synod office.

2. To ensure, **BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE MARRIAGE**, that the legal preliminaries required by the *BC Marriage Act* have been fulfilled, namely

(a) That he or she has received from the parties to the marriage a valid British Columbia Marriage License (form VSA 405 top half) authorizing the proposed marriage.

3. To register the Marriage in the following manner:

(a) By completing a Registration of Marriage (form VSA 405 bottom half) and snail-mailing it to the District in which the marriage was solemnized, within two (2) days after the day of marriage. This record must be signed by both parties to the Marriage, by two adult witnesses to

the marriage, and by the officiating clergy. BC Vital Stats requests that you DO NOT fax or scan and e-mail this document.

(b) Note: The completed Registration of Marriage is NOT to be released to the couple.

(c) By recording the marriage in the Parish Marriage Register book. If the wedding is not held in a church, the marriage must be recorded in the register of the church closest to the location of the wedding. The officiant is responsible for making arrangements with the parish wardens for this purpose. If the officiant is not the incumbent, the incumbent's permission is required for weddings in the parish.

#### C. WEDDINGS PERFORMED BY PRIESTS WHO ARE NOT LICENSED IN THE DIOCESE OF KOOTENAY

(a) Priests must write to the Bishop of Kootenay for a temporary registration, providing details of the wedding (who, when, where.) For the temporary registration application the following information is required: date of wedding, location of wedding, name of priest's diocese, name of priest's parish, priests' home address and phone number.

(b) Priests must submit a letter from their Bishop declaring them to be in good standing in their jurisdiction.

(c) Priests must obtain permission from their Bishop to officiate at weddings outside of their dioceses.

(d) Priests must obtain permission of incumbent of the church where the wedding is to take place.

(e) Priests must comply with British Columbia Marriage law.

#### D. WEDDINGS PERFORMED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH PREMISES

(a) The service must be in a public place and taken in a dignified manner.

(b) Priests must have permission of their Bishop to officiate at a wedding outside of their diocese and outside of a church building.

(c) Priests must obtain permission of the incumbent of the church nearest the location of the wedding, and be willing to make arrangements with the wardens to enter the marriage in the church marriage register.