

Procedure for an Ecclesiastical Divorce

After a Civil Divorce has been granted

1. A member meets with the parish priest to share his/her life, and to review the marriage and discuss how it broke down and whether there is any remaining possibility of reconciliation.
2. Priest contacts the other spouse to hear his/her side of the story.
3. If reconciliation is still not possible, the member completes a file, through his parish priest, with the Archdiocese to petition for an ecclesiastical divorce. This includes:
 - a. Letter to the Archbishop by the petitioner, including relevant information and indicating why s/he wishes to receive a church divorce.
 - b. Separate letter from the parish priest, indicating his perspective on the marriage, its breakdown, and why he supports the petition.
 - c. Original Ecclesiastical Marriage Certificate (issued only to the couple – churches never have these), or, if this is no longer available after a thorough search, an official transcript from the church where the wedding took place.
 - d. Final Decree of Civil Divorce (full copy of all pages, including seal).
 - e. Filing Fee - \$250 money order or certified check, payable to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.
4. Sacrament of Confession is available for both persons for deeper healing from the wound of divorce.
5. The Archbishop issues the Certificate of Ecclesiastical Divorce as long as there is no impediment.