



**SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

DIVORCE/SEPARATION INFORMATION FORM

First Timothy 3:1-7 and related passages establish a high ideal for those who seek to serve as kingdom leaders. When divorce or separation from one's spouse has occurred, the Seminary seeks to offer wise counsel in a supportive context. Moreover we want to help each person find the appropriate expression for the ministry that God gives. The Southeastern family is dedicated to providing the academic curriculum, practical training, and spiritual resources needed by all of God's servants who join us in this pilgrimage of faith.

Applicant's Full Legal Name _____

Date _____ Social Security Number _____

- Check One: Divorced
 Reconciled and Remarried
 Voluntary Separation
 Divorced and Remarried
 Legal Separation

Yes, I understand that I may be asked to meet with the Admissions Committee on campus.

Date of Separation/Divorce _____ Place _____

Date of Remarriage _____ If remarried, is this your spouse's first marriage? _____

Official Cause (as stated in Court Documents):

What do you believe were the real causes of your separation/divorce?

Would your former spouse agree with what you have written above? (If no, please explain.)

How long were you married? _____

Was this a first marriage for you? (If no, please explain.)

Do you have legal obligations to your former spouse and/or any dependent? _____ If "yes", to whom, what are these obligations, and are you honoring them?

How might this separation/divorce experience or these obligations affect your studies?

Are you aware that there likely will be a time at which divorce per se or your divorce in particular may be a major impediment to ministry employment?

As you may be aware, divorce and similar problems pose unique, but not insurmountable difficulties for ministry candidates. The current policy of the International and North American Mission Boards is not to appoint divorced candidates to career missions assignments. Though sympathetic, understanding, and forgiving on the personal level, many churches do not place divorced individuals in key leadership positions. This is not necessarily due to any lack of ability on the part of the candidate, nor is it due to skepticism regarding one's dedication or commitment to the ministry tasks of God's kingdom. The policy is due to the desire of the church, in keeping with biblical principles, to establish ministers as role models in keeping with the highest Christian standards.

We want you to know that we do our best to assist graduating seniors in finding a place of service, but autonomous local churches are understandably independent in such matters. Because many, perhaps most, Southern Baptist churches will not call a pastor who has had the misfortune of a divorce, the efforts of our placement division will be to find some ministry opportunity for you other than as a pastor or as a missionary. We believe that it is imperative that you never hide the fact of your divorce from any church or denomination entity that considers you for any position. If a church approaches the seminary about your ministry as a pastor, the seminary will certainly share every possible positive result of your seminary experience. If the church calls you to a position with that knowledge, then we will rejoice with you and pray for blessings upon your work.

Your responses on this form and/or in the interview with the Admissions Committee of the Faculty will be treated confidentially. Our desire is to help you as you seek to prepare for the ministry to which God is calling you.

It is not necessary to do so, but you may wish to provide further information or make additional comments in writing by enclosing a separate sheet with this form. Be sure to include your full name, date, and social security number on all additional pages.

Please mail directly to:

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Admissions Office
P.O. Box 1889
Wake Forest, NC 27588-1889

****PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE COMPLAINT AND JUDGMENT FILED IN THE DIVORCE ACTION.**

Signature: _____

Date: _____