

Regulations Re Authorities for Lay Ministry made by the Archbishop-in-Council under the Deaconesses, Readers and Other Lay Persons Ordinance 1981

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1. Types of Authorities

The Authorities which may be issued subject to these regulations are as follows -

- (a) **A Continuing Authority** which shall continue for the lifetime of the authorised person subject to revocation by the Archbishop.
- (b) **A Periodic Authority** which shall be limited to a defined period of time.
- (c) **An Occasional Authority** which shall be limited to a specified occasion.

2. Qualifications of Persons to whom Authorities are issued

Any person to whom an Authority is to be issued must -

- (a) be baptised; and
- (b) be confirmed but this requirement may be dispensed with at the discretion of the Archbishop; and
- (c) have attained the age of 18 years; and
- (d) have assented to the doctrine of the Thirty Nine Articles; and
- (e) have undertaken to obey all lawful and honest commands of the Archbishop; and
- (f) if the Authority is a Continuing or Periodic Authority which includes preaching, normally have attained a standard of biblical and theological knowledge through the successful completion of the S.P.T.C. or the Moore College Evening Course at pass level or equivalent course of study.

Provided that any one or more of these requirements may be dispensed with at the discretion of the Archbishop or any Assistant Bishop where an Occasional Authority only is to be issued.

3. Conditions to be Satisfied

The conditions which must be satisfied before an Authority is issued are as follows -

- (a) An application must have been submitted in such form, if any, as determined or approved by the Registrar from time to time.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (c) and except in the case of an Occasional Authority such applicant must be -
 - (i) approved by the minister and the parish council in which the church where the applicant customarily worships is situated or, if in a parochial unit having only one church there is no parish council, by the minister and churchwardens of the church where the applicant customarily worships; or
 - (ii) approved by two clergymen in presbyter's orders licensed by the Archbishop to officiate within the Diocese and two lay persons who are confirmed members of the Anglican Church of Australia.

- (c) The provisions of paragraph (b) shall not apply in the case of -
 - (i) Deaconesses.
 - (ii) Officers of the Church Army in Australia.
 - (iii) Catechists who are students at Moore College or Parish Sisters where the application relates to the Parish to which they are to be appointed.
 - (iv) Representatives approved by the Archbishop of an organisation or corporation engaged in Christian charitable or missionary work or objects.

4. Requirements of Persons to whom Authorities are Issued

In the exercise of any Authority -

- (a) A person shall use only such forms of service as may lawfully be in use in the Church were that person is authorised to minister.
- (b) A person shall wear the surplice when officiating in church provided that the surplice may be dispensed with if in similar circumstances clergy may be relieved of the obligation to wear the surplice.

5. Descriptions of Persons to whom Authorities are Issued

(1) Persons to whom a Continuing Authority is issued in respect of the whole, or any part, comprising two or more Parishes of the Diocese to perform the functions described in clauses 4 and 5 of the Ordinance may be described as "Diocesan Reader".

(2) Persons to whom a Continuing Authority is issued in respect of a Parish to perform the functions described in clauses 4 and 5 of the Ordinance may be described as "Parish Reader".

(3) Persons to whom an Authority is issued in pursuance to clause 6 of the Ordinance shall be described as "Deputationists".

(4) Persons authorised to carry out all or any of the functions described in clauses 4 and 5 of the Ordinance may at the discretion of the Archbishop, and if otherwise suitably qualified, be described as "Parish Worker", "Parish Youth Worker", "Parish Sister", "Catechist", "Parish Counsellor", "Evangelist" or by some other designation considered by the Archbishop to be appropriate in all the circumstances.

6. Deaconesses and Candidates for the Order of Deaconesses

The following provisions apply to Deaconesses and candidates for the Order of Deaconesses -

- (a) The person approved by the Bishop to sign the certificate of nomination shall be the Head Deaconess.
- (b) The candidate for admission to the Order shall first be examined and approved by the Archbishop's Examining Chaplains.
- (c) A candidate for admission to the Order shall normally be expected to have completed a two year course of full-time study at Deaconess House or other course approved by the Archbishop, and to have fulfilled two years of probationary ministry in a parish. During her probationary training she shall be known as a "Parish Sister".
- (d) A Deaconess may be licensed to perform pastoral and liturgical duties in parishes or in other fields of service recognised by the Archbishop or the Synod in accordance with the provisions of the Deaconesses, Lay Readers and other Lay Assistants Ordinance 1981.
- (e) In the performance of liturgical duties the Deaconess should, when assisting a minister required to wear a surplice, wear a surplice, with a deaconess emblem, and an ankle-length cassock or skirt. She may also wear a Canterbury Cap. The latter two should be in the regulation junior navy material. The Deaconess emblem should be the official badge of the Sydney Deaconess Fellowship.

7. Interpretation

In these Regulations, "Parish" includes all other ecclesiastical districts in the Diocese.

(As made on 2 November 1981 and amended on 23 November 1981, 15 December 1986, 1 February 1995 and 7 August 2006.)