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When a vacancy occurs the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee, in line with the Deanery Mission Plan, will recommend either of the following:

- a) That an appointment is made
- b) That presentation is suspended perhaps because of pastoral reorganisation or on the grounds of housing.

### **What does suspension of presentation mean?**

Normally when there is a vacancy, the Patrons, after consultation with the parish reps, 'present' their candidate to the Bishop. The Bishop can then appoint that person to the post. The Bishop can, however, ask the Patrons to wait before they present a candidate. This is 'suspending the right of presentation' and gives that vital time to think about what is right for the parish.

## **The Consultation Process when pastoral reorganisation is under review**

When a vacancy occurs the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee will, in discussion with the parish, make a recommendation to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee for consideration. If approved the Bishop will be asked to consider suspension of presentation.

The Bishop will then write to all the interested parties letting them know what he has been asked to do and why. He also informs them of their right to request a meeting with his representatives to discuss the issues involved. Many PCCs do request a meeting to which all other interested parties are invited. The Bishop will then ask the Archdeacon, and/or his Planning Officer to meet with the interested parties (Area Dean, Lay Chair, PCC, Patron) on his behalf.

Following the consultations and the recommendations of Deanery and Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committees the Bishop can decide to issue the notice of suspension having been satisfied that all the criteria have been met.

The suspension can last for a period of up to five years (unless suspension is on the grounds of 'housing' in which case it is three years).

However, the suspension can be lifted when pastoral reorganisation is complete. Equally, if the pastoral reorganisation is not complete the suspension can be renewed for a further period (except if the grounds of suspension are housing).

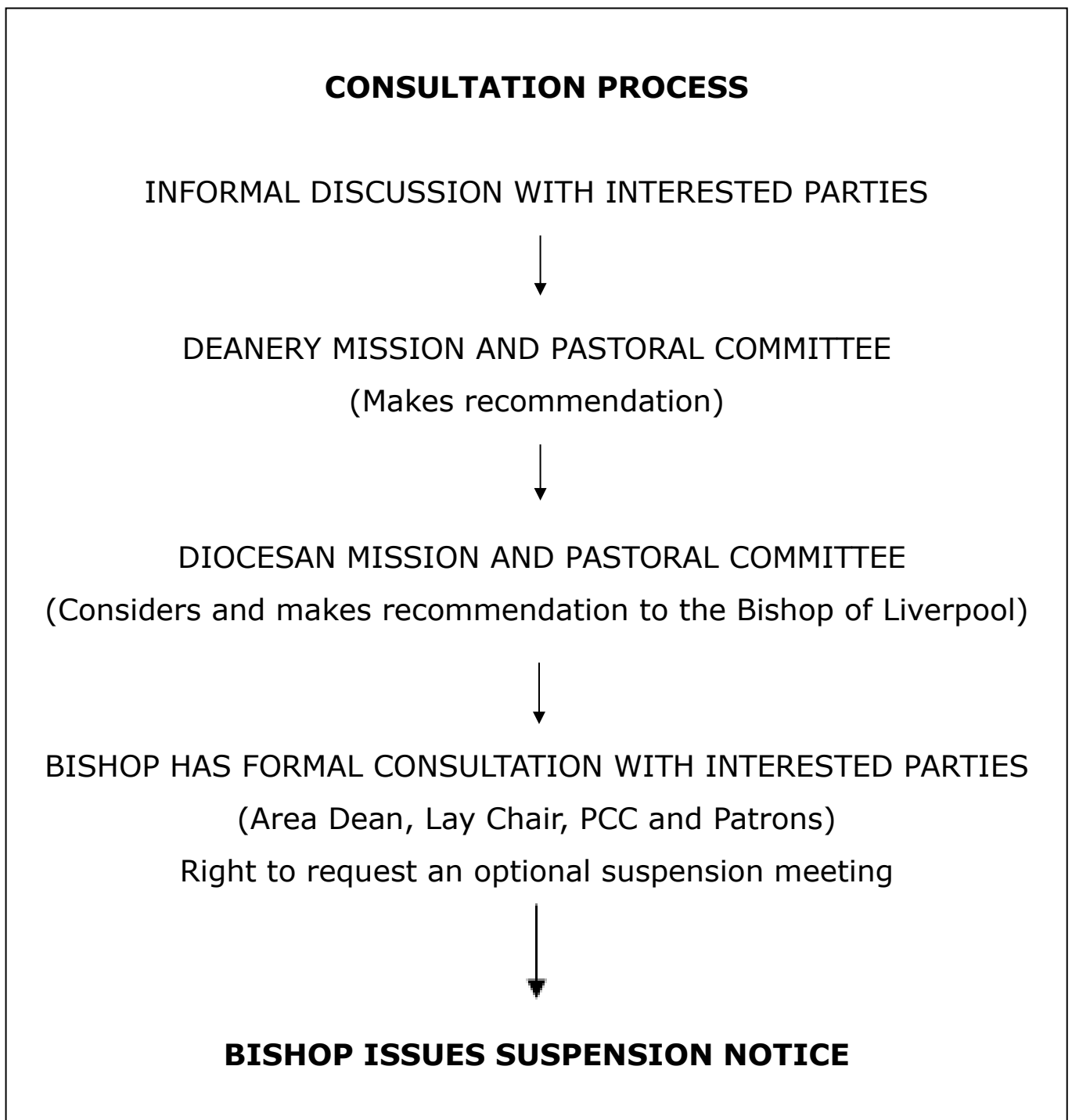
Suspension of presentation should not be seen as a method of denying a parish the right to have a minister, but the means to consider all the various issues that might contribute to the future mission of the parish and the deanery.

The suspension process forms part of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 (Section 85) which is available on the Church Commissioners website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/parish-reorganisation-and-church-property/mission-and-pastoral-measure-2011-and-code>

## The Steps

The table below sets out the steps of the process.

Please note that parishes should ensure that they understand the implications of the consultation process and take up their right to a suspension meeting if necessary.



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