



AFFIRMATION OF
SPONSORS
FOR
BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION

➤ **Baptism**

- Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists (1) an **adult** in Christian initiation or (2) together with the parents, presents an **infant** for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it. (c. 872)
- Only one sponsor is necessary (whether for adults or infants). In cases where two sponsors are appointed to this task, one must be male, and one must be female. (c. 873)

➤ **Confirmation**

- Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament. (c. 892) It is desirable (but not obligatory) to choose as sponsor the one (or one of those) who undertook the same function in baptism. (c. 893 §2)

➤ **Requirements** (cc 874 and 893 §1):

- The sacraments of baptism and confirmation are closely linked theologically, as both are sacraments of initiation. Therefore the requirements for sponsors (also known as “godparents”) are the same.
- To be permitted to take on the role of sponsor, a person must be:
 1. at least 16 years of age, unless the pastor has granted an exception for a just cause;
 2. a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist **and** who leads a life of faith in keeping with the role of sponsor (NOTE: this is understood to include: striving to live according to the teachings of the Catholic Church, regular participation in Mass on Sundays and, if married, having entered into marriage according to the requirements of the Church.)
 3. Neither the father nor the mother of the person to be baptized/confirmed. (NOTE: Parents have the primary responsibility for forming their children in the faith. Sponsors have a supportive and therefore less significant role in this regard. Consequently, parents cannot serve as sponsors for their children. However, parents may serve as proxies in cases where the actual sponsor cannot be physically present for the ceremony in which the sacrament is celebrated.)

Affirmation of Prospective Sponsor/Godparent

If you are convinced that you qualify in accordance with the requirements as explained here, please make the following solemn affirmation as a matter of conscience:

I, (print full name) _____, a practicing Catholic seeking to be admitted as a sponsor/godparent, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role, as presented in this document. I intend, with the grace of God, to continue to practice my Catholic faith and, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as sponsor/godparent.

Date of Ceremony

Name of Candidate for Baptism or Confirmation

Parish and Town

Signature of Sponsor/Godparent

Date

Sponsor/Godparent email address

Phone Number

Affirmation of Pastor

I, (print full name) _____, as Pastor of the above-referenced individual, do attest that he/she is a practicing Catholic, a member of this parish in good standing and, to the best of my knowledge, meets all the necessary requirements to serve as a sponsor as outlined in Canon Law (cc 874 and/or 893 §1).

Signature of Pastor

Date and Parish Seal

****When form is completed, please hand deliver, mail, email or fax to the parish in which the sacrament will be celebrated. The form must be received at least seven days prior to the celebration.***