

I. Church Norms Concerning Godparents

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the **sacrament of Baptism** or **Confirmation**, a godparent is present. The *function* of the godparent is:

- Together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church.
- To support the person in living the Catholic Christian life.

In accord with **Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law**, the Church can admit a person to the *role* of godparent if:

- He or she is more than sixteen years of age.
- Is a baptized Catholic who has been Confirmed, has already received the Blessed Eucharist, and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.
- Is neither the father nor the mother of the person.

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent “lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.” This means that the candidate for godparent:

- Sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church.
- Prayerfully attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- If married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

II. Individual Criteria for Admittance as a Godparent/Sponsor

A sponsor must be fully initiated into the Catholic faith. When and where did you receive the three Sacraments of Initiation? (Fill in below.) A current baptism certificate with notations can be requested from your church of record (i.e., where you were baptized) and it will list the sacraments listed below.

_____ **Church of Baptism, City, State**

_____ **Date of Baptism**

_____ **Church of First Communion, City, State**

_____ **Date of First Communion**

_____ **Church of Confirmation, City, State**

_____ **Date of Confirmation**

A sponsor must be canonically free to carry out this office of godparent. This means that Catholics in an invalid marriage (not married according to the laws of the Church) and those cohabitating (living together without marriage) cannot serve as a godparent.

Have you ever been married, civilly, sacramentally or common law?

_____ **YES** _____ **NO**

If yes, how many times? _____

Please answer the following for each previous marriage (attach separate sheet if necessary):

Place of Marriage (church/other): _____

City, State: _____

Date of Marriage: _____

Marriage Performed By: (circle one)

Priest — Deacon — Minister — Judge

Justice of the Peace — Other _____

Are you still in this marriage?

_____ **YES** _____ **NO**

Copies of your sacramental certificates, of all sacraments received, must accompany this form.

A sponsor must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass on Sundays and receives the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation regularly. Based on these guidelines, are you in good standing with the Catholic Church? _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

If you do not attend Mass weekly, please attach a separate letter explaining the situation.

Name of church you presently attend: _____

City, State: _____ Pastor's Name: _____

A sponsor must NOT be the father, mother, step-parent, or custodial guardian of the one to be baptized/confirmed. What is your relationship to the candidate? _____

III Affirmation of the Prospective Godparent

If therefore, you seek to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor, and are convinced that you qualify in accordance with the conditions listed above, kindly make the following **solemn affirmation** before God:

I, (print your name as you would like it to appear on the certificate) _____, a practicing Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented above. I **intend**, with the grace of God, to continue the practice of my Catholic faith, and I will, to the best of my ability, carry out the obligations of my role as godparent/sponsor.

Signature and Date

Your mailing address: _____, City: _____ State: _____, ZIP _____

Email address: _____ Phone number: _____

IV Sponsor Approbation

(This portion must be filled out by the priest of your proper parish)

I verify that the above named person is an active, registered member of _____ Parish, in the city of _____. He/She is a faithful Catholic and meets the canonical criteria to be a Godparent. I give my permission for him/her to sponsor

Name of Baptism Candidate,
child of

Parents Names
in the Sacred Heart of Klamath Falls parish,
on _____

Date

Priest's Printed Name _____

Priest's Signature _____

Date _____

Church Seal:

