

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

USE OF THE GODPARENT AND SPONSOR ATTESTATION FORM FOR THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (INCLUDING CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE)

Dear Catechumen or Parent(s),

A godparent helps an adult or older child to prepare for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist), and then assists him or her in persevering in the Christian life.¹ Furthermore, "The part of godparents is to testify to the faith of adult candidates or, together with the parents, to profess the Church's faith, in which children are baptized."²

In choosing a godparent, who is typically also the sponsor for Confirmation, the catechumen or parents should consider carefully the person's capacity to undertake these roles.

The specific qualifications of a godparent, according to Church law,³ are as follows:

1. At least 16 years old

A pastor may grant an exception to the age requirement for a just cause.⁴

2. Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist in the Catholic Church

A member of the Eastern Orthodox Church may serve as a godparent as long as a Catholic godparent has also been chosen.⁵

3. Not bound by a canonical penalty

4. Leading a life of faith befitting the role to be undertaken (e.g., regularly attending Sunday Mass; if married, be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church)

5. Not a parent of the child

The above criteria reflect the Church's view that living the faith is taught best by example. Your chosen godparent or sponsor is asked to testify that he or she meets these qualifications by completing the **Godparent and Sponsor Attestation Form for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. Please provide the godparent or sponsor with this document in a timely manner so that it can be returned to the parish before the celebration of the sacrament.

¹ *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 8.

² *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 9.

³ *Code of Canon Law*, canons 874 §1, 893 §1; *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Christian Initiation: General Introduction, no. 10.

⁴ *Code of Canon Law*, canon 874 §1, 2°.

⁵ Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism* (1993), no. 98b.



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GODPARENT AND SPONSOR ATTESTATION FORM
FOR THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS
(INCLUDING CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE)

FOR USE IN THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND ONLY

Congratulations! The witness of your Catholic faith now calls you to a sacred role in a person's life as a baptismal godparent and Confirmation sponsor. You will present this person for the sacraments and help him or her to live according to the grace received in Baptism and Confirmation. Please complete this form to attest to your readiness to accept this role. May God bless you abundantly!

I (print full name) _____

having been chosen as godparent and sponsor for (print name) _____

who will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist,

affirm that I possess the qualifications listed below, and that I willingly undertake these roles.

Qualifications of a godparent or sponsor:⁶

1. At least 16 years old (unless the pastor has granted an exemption)
2. Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist in the Catholic Church
3. Not bound by a canonical penalty
4. Leading a life of faith befitting the role to be undertaken (e.g., regularly attending Sunday Mass; if married, be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church)
5. Not a parent of the child

I have read and understand the above qualifications. Should I have questions about the qualifications, I will seek clarification from the pastor or his delegate. And with my signature below, I swear before God that I am eligible to serve in the roles of godparent and sponsor, and I assume this responsibility willingly.

Godparent/Sponsor Signature _____ Date _____

Pastor may request signature be witnessed by the godparent's pastor/delegate affirming that the person signing the form is the same individual as the person who will undertake the duty of godparent.

Signature NOT REQUIRED WITHIN CLUSTER PARISHES
OF PORTSMOUTH + CHESAPEAKE (no seal necessary)

This form should be destroyed once the godparent's information has been inscribed in the register of the parish where the sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist) have been conferred.

⁶ Code of Canon Law, canons 874 §1, 893 §1; Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Christian Initiation: General Introduction, no. 10.