



Catholic Church of Saint Gabriel
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Baptism and/or Confirmation Sponsorship Form

1. Some Basic Church Rules Concerning Sponsors

Being selected as a Sponsor is a great honor and privilege. By accepting this role, you are making a commitment not just to the person, but to the family. You are now entrusted with the sacred duty of witnessing, promoting, and enhancing the spiritual development of another Christian. It is very important that the child / candidate you are sponsoring experience your presence and support with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation, a sponsor is present. The function of the sponsor is: a) together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church and b) to assist the person in Christian initiation.

In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of sponsor if: a) he or she is not less than sixteen years of age; b) is a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the blessed Eucharist and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken; and c) is not either the father or the mother of the person.

Given the functions and role a sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a sponsor; however, he or she can be a witness. A non-Christian cannot serve in this latter capacity, but is welcome to be present at the ceremony.

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a sponsor "lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken." This means that the candidate for sponsor: a) sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church; b) regularly takes part in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; and c) if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

Consequently, the following do not qualify to be a sponsor:

- One who is not actively affiliated with a worshipping community,
- One is who was invalidly married, as for example, before a Justice of the Peace, or without proper dispensation, before a minister of a Protestant church or before a rabbi,
- One who is divorced and invalidly remarried, and
- One who has not received confirmation and the blessed Eucharist.

2. Affirmation of the Prospective Sponsor

If, therefore, you seek to be admitted as a sponsor and are convinced that you qualify in accord with the conditions listed, kindly make the following solemn affirmation:

I, (*print full name*) _____, a practicing Catholic who seeks to be a sponsor, solemnly affirm that I fulfill the requirements of the Catholic Church for this role as presented. 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 sponsor.

Date of the Ceremony

Name of the Candidate

Name of Sponsor's Parish

City and State of Sponsor's Parish

AFFIRMATION OF SPONSOR

Signature of Sponsor

Date

**CERTIFICATION BY
SPONSOR'S PASTOR**

Signature of Pastor

Date

CHURCH SEAL