

Additional information when preparing Baptism Request

To request the Sacrament of Baptism for your child, although preferred, it is not a requirement for the birth parents of the child to be married. It is a requirement that at least one birth parent be a practicing Catholic.

When we record the Sacrament of Baptism, we take the full names of the child, birth father, and birth mother, from the birth certificate, thus our request for this document.

Because of the civil legal system, and legal ramifications, we have to be careful to honor the parental rights of both named birth parents even when both parents are not actively raising and making choices for their child. A court document of *sole custody* is not always sufficient.

Therefore, it has been decided to make the following change to our past process, so to be better assured both parents (if both are named on Birth Certificate) have no objection to their child celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism:

If a parent's name is on the birth certificate:

- A) He/She needs to sign our Baptism Registration Request form;
- B) **AND** attend the Baptism Preparation Class,
- C) **OR** sign an affidavit, a notarized statement, saying he/she has no objections to having the child baptized.
- D) If, a parent is going to be present at the Baptism, he/she needs to take the Baptism Preparation Class, regardless of having signed the form or given an affidavit.
- E) If, there is only one birth parent name on the birth certificate, only that parent is required to sign the form and take the Baptism Preparation Class.
- F) **IF**, following the above is problematic for the care giving parent, this parent needs to have a confidential conversation with the pastor, after which, the Parish Office will be given instructions on how to proceed with paperwork.

Additionally, please note:

We record the birth mother's name with her maiden name. Even though this is the church's required way of recording, all other paperwork must reflect the current actual marital status. "Engaged" is not legally married civilly, or in the Church. Therefore, a birth mother cannot legally use the birth father's last name, nor can she be referred to as "wife," until she is legally married.