

**SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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**BAPTISMAL / CONFIRMATION GODPARENT AFFIDAVIT FORM**

**BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS FORM PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, phone number \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

testify by my signature below that I am qualified to serve as a godparent for (Baptism) (Confirmation) in

the Catholic Church for \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of Infant/Child/Adult to be Baptized

**Please circle either YES or NO for each question that follows:**

YES NO Are you a Roman Catholic?

YES NO Are you at least 16 years old? (see a priest or the baptism minister for exceptions)

YES NO Have you received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church?

YES NO Are you free to receive Holy Communion when you are at Mass?

**Answer the following only if married:**

YES NO Was your present marriage celebrated in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest or deacon or in another denomination with the written permission of a Catholic bishop? (If not please provide a written explanation)

**Answer the following only if unmarried:**

YES NO Are you living with another person in a romantic relationship or as a couple?

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I sign this document in the presence of a Catholic priest, deacon, pastoral associate or minister of a Catholic Church and understand that by my signature I attest that what I have circled above is truthful.

Godparent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Representative's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Church Representative's Title \_\_\_\_\_

Church Representative's Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Church City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE GODPARENT AFFIDAVIT FORM

## A. INTRODUCTION:

The godparent is the most important person in the life of an infant, child or adult who is to be baptized. The godparent is 1. A spiritual role model, 2. An example of the Christian life and 3. The official representative of the Body of Christ, the Church, into which an infant/child/adult is being baptized.

Because of these three responsibilities, the Catholic Church has some minimum requirements it asks all godparents to fulfill in order to serve in this role. Each godparent is asked to complete the other side of this form using this side of the form to answer the questions.

NOTE: ABOUT PROXIES: a godparent is not required to be present for a baptism. When a godparent cannot be present, a Catholic parent or the candidate him/herself may ask someone to stand in as a proxy for the godparent as long as the proxy is not one of the parents.

## B. THE QUESTIONS:

1. **RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION:** A godparent must be a Roman Catholic because the godparent is an official representative of the Catholic Church. Christians of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as Christian Witness for the baptism of a Catholic. Christians whose baptism is not recognized as valid in the Catholic Church and Non-Christians may not serve as a godparent or Christian Witness.
2. **MINIMUM AGE:** A godparent must generally be 16 by the date of the baptism. For exceptions, see a Catholic priest or the minister who will officiate for the baptism.
3. **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION.** A godparent is a baptized Catholic who has received confirmation and Holy Communion in the Catholic Church.
4. **FREEDOM TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS:** The godparent is a practicing Catholic who is free to receive Holy Communion when he or she comes to Mass.
5. **MARRIAGE STATUS:** A Catholic godparent who is married must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either a) in a Catholic Church ceremony or b) in a church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in second marriages must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage recognized or convalidated by the Catholic Church. Catholics presently in civil or common law marriage are not eligible to serve as a godparent.
6. **UNMARRIED STATUS:** If unmarried, a godparent must be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church. Anyone cohabitating with another person, e.g. living in a romantic relationship or as a couple, is ineligible to serve.