

Regulations for Sponsors of Candidates Confirmation

To become a Confirmation sponsor, a person must:

1. Be asked by the confirmand;
2. Be at least 16 years old;
3. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith;
4. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
5. Not be either the father or the mother of the one to be confirmed.

Non-Catholics and non-Christians may not be Confirmation sponsors. Because the sponsor must be leading a life in harmony with the faith, the person, if married, must be in a valid marriage recognized by the Church. A Confirmation sponsor may act through a proxy. One who is to act as a proxy for a sponsor must meet all of the same requirements the sponsor must meet.

Sponsor certificates which declare that one is fit to serve as a sponsor for a candidate for confirmation are normally issued by one's own pastor. These are normally presented to the priest or deacon administering the Sacrament. The Church takes very seriously the role of the sponsor.

The Catechism tells us, "For the grace of baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the godfather and godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized (child or adult) on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function. The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at baptism." (*Sources: Code of Canon Law, Canons 872-874 and 892-893; Catechism of the Catholic Church #1253-1255*).

Remember, we are bringing the Sacrament of Baptism to completion.