

# Requirements of Sponsors

There may be ONE or TWO sponsors. When there are TWO sponsors, one is male (godfather) and the other female (godmother). One sponsor must be Catholic.

## Requirements for the Catholic

- at least sixteen years old and
- baptized and confirmed and received the Eucharist
- living an upright life
- no penalties (e.g., left the Church, etc.). Therefore, a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a sponsor, and cannot be a “Christian witness” if they join another Christian communion.
- cannot be either parent
  - Ageexception:
- The pastor or the minister of baptism may admit a Catholic who is younger than sixteen.
- In this case, the Catholic who is younger than 16 must meet requirements above (i.e., full initiation, etc.).
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- “Christian Witness”
- baptized non-Catholic with Catholic sponsor
- The other sponsor may be a baptized Christian of a different faith. This person is a “Christian witness” (and not a “sponsor”).
- The other witness with a Catholic sponsor may never be non-baptized. For example, Jewish or Muslim godparents are not permitted by universal church law.

## Requirements for the Christian Witness:

- at least sixteen years old
- a validly baptized Christian
- living an upright life
- cannot be either parent
- cannot be a Catholic who has left the Church.
- The notation Christian witness is placed under the name of the non-Catholic Christian witness in the baptismal register.
  - From the 1983 Code of Canon Law Canon 874, 1: To be admitted to the role of sponsors, a person must:
- be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role.
- have completed their sixteenth year, unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause;
- be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;
- not be bound by a canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
- not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.



## DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Rockville Centre, NY

### Testimony of Designated Sponsor

*The role of sponsor is an important one for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Today some may see the role as honorary, but the Church sees the sponsor, popularly called a godparent, as a fully-initiated Catholic who actively supports the newly Baptized or Confirmed by good example and instruction in the Christian life.*

*In order to be admitted to the role of sponsor, the law of the Church directs that a person must be designated specifically by the parents of the infant or the individual who is to be baptized or confirmed. To be a Sponsor, a person must be a Catholic, at least sixteen years of age, and have already received the Sacraments of Most Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. In addition, he or she must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and not be bound by a canonical penalty.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare that I have been chosen to act as a sponsor for \_\_\_\_\_, who is to receive the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation on \_\_\_\_\_ at the Church of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

In assuming this responsibility, I testify that:

- ◆ **I am at least sixteen years of age.**
- ◆ **I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.**
- ◆ **I am living a life in harmony with the teaching of the Catholic Church in faith and morals.**

Understanding the role of sponsor as prescribed by the Church and aware of the obligations and responsibilities of this role, I attest that I am willing and able to accept the role of sponsor in the Catholic Church.

By my signature, I solemnly swear that I fulfill all of the requirements to be a sponsor as described above. I attest to the truth of this statement, so help me God.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Designated Sponsor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parish*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Pastor/Delegate*