

Overview of the Sponsor's work

- *Must be Catholics in good standing*
- *Must be exemplary Catholics*
- *Must be fully initiated and fully participating in the life of the Church.*
- *Must be over 16 years of age.*
- *If married, the sponsor must be in a Catholic Marriage which was done before a Roman Catholic Priest or Deacon, proven with documents*
- *They are a mentor in the faith*
- *May not be a parent.*
- *Men or boys do not need male sponsors, nor do women or girls need female sponsors.*

in the confines of our homes and in the marketplace can help to move the world from the godless direction it is heading to its original goal as God made it. It begins with you and your family.



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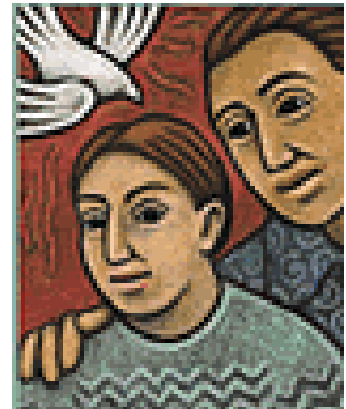
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Serving the People
of God

Requirements to be a Sponsor for Baptism, Confirmation or RCIA



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Sponsors must be an Example for those they sponsor

What is a Sponsor?

When you join any organization, there is usually someone to vouch for you, to mentor you and to support you personally. This is also true of the Catholic Church.

A sponsor is a person who stands up for you, who supports you and “teaches you the ropes” when you join the Church. This means that the person who is a sponsor has to know the ropes first, before teaching you. They have to know how to pray, not only by rote, or by ritual, but have a prayer life that helps them to grow spiritually.

Sponsors, because they are guides for you need to have some ability to teach you, and to counsel you when things are not going well in your faith life. They are more like a mentor than an honored person because they lead you and are responsible for helping you to remain Catholic for the rest of your life.

Because the Church takes this role so seriously, she has even legislated who may or may not be a sponsor. Here is the particular law from the Code of Canon Law, the book of laws governing how the church is run.

Sponsors in the Law of the Church

Canon 872: Insofar as possible, one to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who is to assist an adult in Christian initiation, or, together with the parents, to present an infant at the baptism, and who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it.

Canon 873: Only one male or one female sponsor or one of each sex is to be employed.

Canon 874 § 1: To be admitted to the role of sponsor, 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 the sixteenth year...
- 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 any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.

§2: A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial (*protestant church*) community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor.

Documentary Proofs Needed For Sponsors.

Those who wish to be a Sponsor must present documentary proof of a Catholic marriage if they are married, and a letter from their pastor that they are exemplary Catholics who keep the precepts of the Church: attending all obligatory Masses, confessing annually, fasting the required days and contributing financially to their parish. The usual documents are a letter from the pastor and a new original Baptismal certificate with notes.

What sacramental celebrations need sponsors, and why?

The Sacraments of Initiation, when celebrated for adults, require a sponsor, and this is the prototype of what a Sponsor does. When you want to join the church, the Director of the Initiation process called the RCIA will help you choose someone who can fulfill the role of Sponsor. Many times a candidate for initiation doesn't know very many Catholics, and if they do, the Catholics they know are not qualified to

be a Sponsor because they have made choices in their lives that are contrary to the teachings of Christ, and thus Catholic teaching and laws. In these cases a Sponsor will be chosen for the candidate.

In addition to the RCIA, Sponsors are required for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is a completion of Baptism given to adults and to youths who have reached the age of 16 and are Juniors in the Diocese of Pueblo. Therefore Sponsors are employed to help them to prepare for the sacrament and to celebrate it with them in a similar way to the RCIA.

What does a Sponsor do?

Sponsors walk through the classes and ritual celebrations which mark the beginning and end of the phases of preparation for reception of the sacraments. And most importantly, they celebrate the actual sacrament with their candidate by standing with them, and showing their mentoring role by certain gestures and ritual actions. They are a resource for the candidate on the teachings of the Church, ready to do research for the candidate to help him or her to understand the faith. [\(Jump to back cover\)](#)

Sponsors also are an advocate for the candidate with the process, the catechist and the pastor.

They have a role in evaluating the readiness of the candidate for reception of the sacraments, too. This is as much a spiritual evaluation as it is a monitoring the candidate's attitude, and participation in the classes for the sacraments.

In conclusion:

It is our aim that by your understanding what Baptism is, and what are your responsibilities as a parent, that we can help you to fulfill the Lord's intention to make your children saints, and to help you to be a saint as well. WE all have the gift of grace and the calling from God to be Holy and pleasing in His sight all the days of our lives. Living our Faith Boldly

Sponsors help the catechist and pastor to evaluate the readiness of their candidate for reception of the sacrament.