

Requirements of Godparents/Sponsors:

There may be ONE or TWO sponsors. When there are TWO sponsors, one is male (Godfather) and the other female (Godmother). At least one of the sponsors must be Catholic.

Requirements for the Catholic Godparents:

- at least sixteen years old
- completed their Sacraments of initiation: Baptized, received Holy Communion, and Confirmed
- living an upright life
- no penalties (i.e.: a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a sponsor, and cannot be a "Christian witness")
- cannot be either parent

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.
- witness with a Catholic sponsor may never be non-baptized. (For example, Jewish or Muslim Godparents are not permitted by universal church law).
- The notation "Christian witness" is placed under the name of the Christian witness in the baptismal register and certificate.

From the 1983 Code of Canon Law Canon 874:

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.*