



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND
USE OF THE SPONSOR ATTESTATION FORM FOR
BAPTIZED CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES OF HIGH SCHOOL AGE

Dear Confirmand,

You will soon choose a sponsor to assist you in carrying out the responsibility associated with the Sacrament of Confirmation. In doing so, you recognize his or her maturity and practice of the faith to help you, as a recipient of a special gift of the Holy Spirit, to “never be ashamed to confess Christ crucified before the world.”¹ In choosing a sponsor, you should carefully consider the person’s capacity to undertake this role.

In order to be a sponsor, according to Church law,² a person must:

1. Be at least 16 years old (*A pastor may grant an exception to the age requirement for a just cause.*³)
2. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist⁴
3. Not be bound by a canonical penalty
4. Be leading a life of faith befitting the role to be undertaken (for example, regularly attending Sunday Mass; if married, be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church)
5. Not be a parent of the confirmand.

The above criteria reflect the Church’s view that living the faith is taught best by example. Your chosen sponsor is asked to testify that he or she meets these qualifications by completing the **Sponsor Attestation Form for Baptized Confirmation Candidates of High School Age**. Please provide the sponsor with this document in a timely manner so that it can be returned to the parish before the celebration of Confirmation.

¹ *Order of Confirmation*, nos. 33, 49.

² *Code of Canon Law*, canons 874 §1, 893 §1; *Order of Confirmation*, no. 5.

³ *Code of Canon Law*, canon 874 §1, 2°.

⁴ *Code of Canon Law*, canon 874 §3.



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Congratulations! The witness of your Catholic faith now calls you to a sacred role in the life of a confirmand as his or her sponsor. You will present the confirmand for Confirmation and help him or her to live according to the grace received in this sacrament. Please complete this form to attest to your readiness to accept this role. May God bless you abundantly!

I (print full name) _____,
a member of (name of parish or campus ministry) _____
in (location of parish) _____,
having been chosen as the sponsor for (print full name) _____,
who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, affirm that I possess the qualifications listed below, and
that I willingly undertake this role.

Qualifications of a sponsor:⁵

1. At least 16 years old (unless the pastor has granted an exemption for a just cause)
2. A Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist⁶
3. Not bound by a canonical penalty
4. Leading a life of faith befitting the role to be undertaken (for example, regularly attending Sunday Mass; if married, be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church)
5. Not a parent of the confirmand.

I have read and understand the above qualifications. Should I have questions about the qualifications, I will seek clarification from my pastor, or his delegate. With my signature below, I swear before God that I am eligible to serve in the role of sponsor, and that I assume this responsibility willingly.

Sponsor's signature _____ Date _____

*The pastor of the **confirmand** may request that the sponsor's signature be witnessed by the pastor, or delegate of the sponsor, to verify that the person signing the form is the same individual who will undertake the duty of sponsor.*

Pastor/Delegate Signature _____ (No Seal Necessary)

This form should be destroyed once the sponsor's information has been inscribed in the register of the parish where the Confirmation has been recorded.

⁵ Code of Canon Law, canons 874 §1, 893 §1; Order of Confirmation, no. 5.

⁶ Code of Canon Law, canon 874 §3.