



**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND**  
USE OF THE GODPARENT AND SPONSOR ATTESTATION FORM  
FOR THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)  
(INCLUDING CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE)

Dear Catechumen, Candidate, or Parent(s),

A godparent or sponsor helps an adult or child of catechetical age to prepare for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist), and then assists him or her in persevering in the Christian life.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, “The part of godparents is to testify to the faith of adult candidates or, together with the parents, to profess the Church’s faith, in which children are baptized.”<sup>2</sup>

In choosing a godparent or sponsor, the catechumen, candidate, or parents should consider carefully the person’s capacity to undertake these roles.

In order to be a godparent or sponsor, according to Church law,<sup>3</sup> a person must:

1. Be at least 16 years old (*A pastor may grant an exception to the age requirement for a just cause.*<sup>4</sup>)
2. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist<sup>5</sup> (*A member of the Eastern Orthodox Church may serve as a godparent as long as a Catholic godparent has also been chosen.*<sup>6</sup>)
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 child

The above criteria reflect the Church’s view that living the faith is taught best by example. Your chosen godparent or sponsor is asked to testify that he or she meets these qualifications by completing the **Godparent and Sponsor Attestation Form for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**. Please provide the godparent or sponsor with this document in a timely manner so that it can be returned to the parish or campus ministry before the celebration of the sacraments.

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<sup>1</sup> *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 8.

<sup>2</sup> *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 9.

<sup>3</sup> *Code of Canon Law*, canons 874 §1, 893 §1; *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Christian Initiation: General Introduction, no. 10.

<sup>4</sup> *Code of Canon Law*, canon 874 §1, 2°.

<sup>5</sup> *Code of Canon Law*, canon 874 §3.

<sup>6</sup> Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism* (1993), no. 98b.



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Congratulations! The witness of your Catholic faith now calls you to a sacred role in a person's life as a godparent or sponsor. You will present this person for the sacraments and help him or her to live according to the grace received in Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. 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 or campus ministry) \_\_\_\_\_,

having been chosen as the godparent or sponsor for (print full name) \_\_\_\_\_,

who will receive the sacraments of (please circle): Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist,

affirm that I possess the qualifications listed below, and that I willingly undertake these roles.

**Qualifications of a godparent or sponsor:<sup>7</sup>**

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 Eucharist
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 catechumen or candidate

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 godparent or sponsor, and that I assume this responsibility willingly.

Godparent/Sponsor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The catechumen or candidate's pastor may request that the godparent or sponsor's pastor or delegate witness the godparent or sponsor's signature to verify that the person signing the form is the same individual who will undertake the duty of godparent or sponsor.*

Pastor/Delegate Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (No Seal Necessary)

*This form should be destroyed once the godparent or sponsor's information has been inscribed in the register of the parish where the Sacraments of Christian Initiation have been recorded.*

<sup>7</sup> Code of Canon Law, canons 874 §1, 893 §1; Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Christian Initiation: General Introduction, no. 10.