

Requirements for Confirmation Sponsor

Why the Sacrament of Confirmation? Prior to his ascension into heaven, Jesus told his apostles that he would send them the Holy Spirit to be their advocate and guide, and on the Feast of Pentecost, the promised gift of the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles and the Virgin Mary as they prayed in the Upper Room, empowering them to be witnesses of Jesus in the world. “The Sacrament of Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us to bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds” (CCC 1316). “Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian’s soul; for this reason, one can receive this sacrament only once in one’s life” (CCC 1317).

What is the role of a Confirmation Sponsor? Just as sponsor for baptism takes upon himself/herself the responsibility of helping the newly baptized person mature in the living a Christian life and offers his or her own life and practice of the faith as an example of faith, prayer and service within the Catholic Church, the Sponsor for Confirmation continues that work for the person who is to be confirmed. The Sacrament of Confirmation also creates a strong spiritual bond between the one who is confirmed and the sponsor. The sponsor should be committed to trying to be a part of the confirmandi’s life by presence and prayer always realizing that a sponsor’s prayers for that person are especially efficacious before Almighty God. One’s “yes” to be a sponsor for Confirmation is not just a “yes” to the candidate, but also a serious commitment to God in taking on this obligation.

What are the requirements of the Church for being a Confirmation Sponsor?

- Sponsor must be someone other than the parent/guardian(s) of the one to be confirmed.
- Sponsor must have received all Sacraments of Initiation: Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.
- Sponsor must be at least 16 years of age and may be male or female regardless of sex of candidate.
- Sponsor must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken; therefore, if married, must be married in the Church and if single, must be striving to live a chaste life and therefore cannot be living with a person outside of marriage.
- Sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, registered in a parish, who regularly attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and receives the Holy Eucharist.
- An Original Seal of approval must be stamped onto the Sponsor Certificate by the parish of the Sponsor.