

CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

Each candidate is to have a sponsor.

To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must

- be designated by the one to be confirmed
- be at least 16 years old
- be a Catholic who has been confirmed and who has already received the sacrament of the 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 mother of the one to be confirmed (c. 874)

A sponsor may be either male or female.

Sponsors should receive formation which highlights their role and responsibilities. They are encouraged to deepen their own faith, and to be models of discipleship. Parishes should offer opportunities for sponsors to have an active role in the preparation process, including opportunities for the candidate and sponsor to share their faith and to strengthen their relationship with one another.

1. May a candidate have more than one sponsor?

Yes. However, only one should be designated as the liturgical sponsor who will present the candidate for confirmation.

2. May parents be sponsors?

Parents may not act as sponsors (c. 874). While parents are not to serve as sponsors, their role in the faith development of their children is not to be underplayed or minimized.

3. May someone who cannot be present be a sponsor and someone else fill in as proxy?

Yes. However, it is recommended that someone nearby be chosen as the sponsor so that she or he can become more intimately involved in the candidate's preparation.

4. May a priest, deacon or professed religious be a sponsor?

Priests, deacons, and men and women religious may be sponsors. Religious do so in accord with their own constitutions and usually only with permission from their superior.