

CHOOSING A GODPARENT

Role of Godparent (Canon Law 872-874)

The godparents, together with the parents are present to profess the church's faith, in which the child is being baptized. Therefore, in order to be appointed sponsor, the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it.

1. Only one godparent is required, but two may be permitted. If two are chosen, one must be male and the other female. (Canon 872-873)
2. The godparent(s) must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
3. The godparent(s) must not be bound by any canonical penalty.
4. The godparent(s) may not be the father or the mother of the child to be baptized.
5. When the godparent(s) are represented by proxies, the latter should be Catholic, and the godparent must give explicit indication of their desire to assume the role and responsibility of godparent.
6. The godparent(s) must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility, having completed the 16th year. (Canon 874.2)
7. If only one godparent is chosen, a second person, called a Christian Witness may also be asked. The Christian Witness is a baptized Christian of another faith (not Catholic).
8. An unbaptized person cannot act as a godparent or Christian witness.