

The information was taken from the Diocese of Boise's Policies and Practices manual (2007).

If you have additional questions, please contact Tish Thornton at TThornton@RCDB.org

Detailed Confirmation guidelines are found under Confirmation Guidelines on the main Parish Life and Faith Formation page.

7. Confirmation

a. CONFIRMATION PREPARATION (page 43-44)

Even apart from the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, parochial preparation for the sacrament of confirmation shall be provided for both candidates and sponsors, and, if the candidates are under the age of 18, for the candidates' parents.⁵² Youth Confirmation preparation should be separate from and in addition to the usual catechesis offered in Catholic high schools and parish-based youth ministry programs.

Confirmation for baptized but uncatechized Catholics will take place at age 14 or older except for those in danger of death. Confirmation for the baptized, uncatechized Catholic will take place by the Bishop. The Bishop may grant delegation upon request.

In order to be confirmed there should be evidence that the candidate is a regular participant in the Liturgy of the Eucharist and some indication that the candidate expects to live the commitment called for by the sacrament to the best of his or her ability.

Confirmation Sponsors: A sponsor for confirmation must:⁵³

- be chosen by the candidate, or by the parents or whoever takes their place, or in the absence of these, by the pastor;
- have the qualifications and intention of fulfilling the role of sponsor;
- have completed his or her sixteenth year, unless for a just reason the pastor shall make an exception to this age requirement;
- be a worthy, practicing Catholic who has been **confirmed and admitted to the Eucharist**;⁵⁴
- not be under any canonical penalty;⁵⁵ and
- not be the father or the mother of the candidate.⁵⁶

b. AGE FOR CONFIRMATION

Except for those adults or children age seven and above, who participate in the RCIA process, that are confirmed at the time of baptism or admission into full communion with the Catholic Church and admission to the Eucharist,⁵⁷ candidates for confirmation in the Diocese of Boise should be in the 9th or 10th grade.⁵⁸

⁵²Cf. c. 890

⁵³cc.874, §1, and 893, §1

⁵⁴Please note that the requirement that a sponsor be confirmed and admitted to the Eucharist may not be dispensed by the pastor or other minister. In fact, even the bishop may not dispense from this constitutive law.

⁵⁵E.g., excommunication, suspension, interdict, or other judicial or preceptive penalty

⁵⁶The parents of an infant to be baptized have their own role to play in the ritual: cf. the Rite of Baptism for Children, no. 5; in the celebration of confirmation, the parents may "present" the candidate.

⁵⁷Cf. cc. 852, §1, and 866; and no. 18 of the National Statutes for the Catechumenate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

⁵⁸General Instructions of the Parish Celebration of Confirmation, Bishop Michael P. Driscoll, MSW, D.D., January 2007