

CODE OF CANON LAW

Can. 843 §1. Sacred ministers cannot deny the sacraments to those who seek them at appropriate times, are properly disposed, and are not prohibited by law from receiving them.

§2. Pastors of souls and other members of the Christian faithful, according to their respective ecclesiastical function, have the duty to take care that those who seek the sacraments are prepared to receive them by proper evangelization and catechetical instruction, attentive to the norms issued by competent authority.

From the 2014 Sacramental Guidelines for the Diocese of London:

The sacraments are a gift from the Church to those reborn through baptism, and they are also a gift to sustain her children. While no one is deserving of baptism, the baptized have a right to celebrate the other sacraments;⁶ indeed the right of the baptized to receive the sacraments is so fundamental that it is enumerated specifically in the canonical rights and duties pertaining to all the faithful.⁷ Furthermore, the faithful also have the right to be adequately prepared for the sacraments.⁸

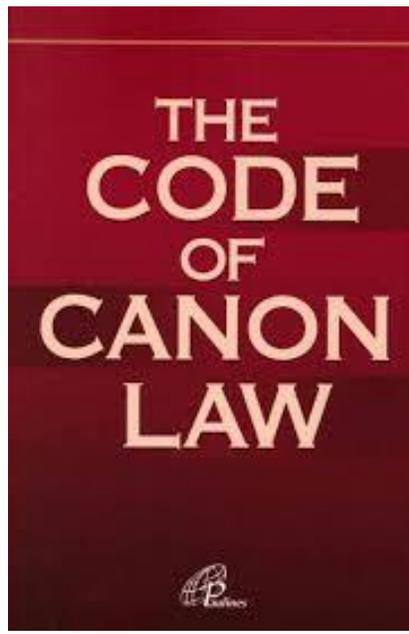
In keeping with the Church's jurisprudence, rights are to be interpreted broadly and their restriction is to be interpreted strictly. *Therefore, priests and those engaged in pastoral ministry are to ask nothing more than what is required by law of those requesting the sacraments.*

General Principles related to 843.1 and 843.2 from the 2014 Sacramental Guidelines for the Diocese of London (#2, #5 and #7):

2. Those engaged in pastoral ministry *may not deny the sacraments* to those who opportunely ask for them, are properly disposed and are not prohibited by law from receiving them.¹⁴

5. Immediate preparation for sacraments includes specific sacramental catechesis prior to the sacrament being celebrated. This is the responsibility of the *proper parish*, that is, the geographical parish where the child, its family or the adult actually resides, or the *legitimate parish*, the non-geographical parish in which the child, its family or the adult is registered. Registration in one's proper parish is not a requirement for seeking to celebrate a sacrament in that parish.¹⁸

7. Registration for sacramental preparation is the responsibility of the parish where the sacrament is to be celebrated. This includes the collection of any necessary canonical documentation. For the celebration of first communion, confirmation and marriage this includes a certificate of baptism in the Catholic Church, where such can be readily obtained; if a certificate of baptism cannot be gotten, an affidavit attesting to Catholic baptism will suffice. Documentation attesting to the suitability of sponsors is not required and is not to be sought.¹⁹



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THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION (Canon 879 - 896)

Can. 879 The sacrament of confirmation strengthens the baptized and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses of Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It imprints a character, enriches by the gift of the Holy Spirit the baptized continuing on the path of Christian initiation, and binds them more perfectly to the Church.

CHAPTER I.

THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

Can. 880 §1. The sacrament of confirmation is conferred by the anointing of chrism on the forehead, which is done by the imposition of the hand and through the words prescribed in the approved liturgical books.

§2. The chrism to be used in the sacrament of confirmation must be consecrated by a bishop even if a presbyter administers the sacrament.

Can. 881 It is desirable to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation in a church and during Mass; for a just and reasonable cause, however, it can be celebrated outside Mass and in any worthy place.

CHAPTER II.

THE MINISTER OF CONFIRMATION

Can. 882 The ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop; a presbyter provided with this faculty in virtue of universal law or the special grant of the competent authority also confers this sacrament validly.

Can. 883 The following possess the faculty of administering confirmation by the law itself:

1/ within the boundaries of their jurisdiction, those who are equivalent in law to a diocesan bishop;

2/ as regards the person in question, the presbyter who by virtue of office or mandate of the diocesan bishop baptizes one who is no longer an infant or admits one already baptized into the full communion of the Catholic Church;

3/ as regards those who are in danger of death, the pastor or indeed any presbyter.

Can. 884 §1. The diocesan bishop is to administer confirmation personally or is to take care that another bishop administers it. If necessity requires it, he can grant the faculty to one or more specific presbyters, who are to administer this sacrament.

§2. For a grave cause the bishop and even the presbyter endowed with the faculty of confirming in virtue of the law or the special grant of the competent authority can in single cases also associate presbyters with themselves to administer the sacrament.

Can. 885 §1. The diocesan bishop is obliged to take care that the sacrament of confirmation is conferred on subjects who properly and reasonably seek it.

§2. A presbyter who possesses this faculty must use it for the sake of those in whose favor the faculty was granted.

Can. 886 §1. A bishop in his diocese legitimately administers the sacrament of confirmation even to faithful who are not his subjects, unless their own ordinary expressly prohibits it.

§2. To administer confirmation licitly in another diocese, a bishop needs at least the reasonably presumed permission of the diocesan bishop unless it concerns his own subjects.

Can. 887 A presbyter who possesses the faculty of administering confirmation also confers this sacrament licitly on externs in the territory assigned to him unless their proper ordinary prohibits it; he cannot confer it validly on anyone in another territory, without prejudice to the prescript of ⇒ can. 883, n. 3.

[INSERTED Canon 883, no. 3: Can. 883 The following possess the faculty of administering confirmation by the law itself: 3/ as regards those who are in danger of death, the pastor or indeed any presbyter.]

Can. 888 Within the territory in which they are able to confer confirmation, ministers can administer it even in exempt places.

CHAPTER III.

THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED

Can. 889 §1. Every baptized person not yet confirmed and only such a person is capable of receiving confirmation.

§2. To receive confirmation licitly outside the danger of death requires that a person who has the use of reason be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew the baptismal promises.

Can. 890 The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the proper time. Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take care that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament and come to it at the appropriate time.

Can. 891 The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age, or there is danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister a grave cause suggests otherwise.

CHAPTER IV.

SPONSORS

Can. 892 Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.

Can. 893 §1. To perform the function of sponsor, a person must fulfill the conditions mentioned in ⇒ can. 874.

[INSERTED Canon 874 - Can. 874 §1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;

2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;

3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;

4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

§2. It is desirable to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism.]

CHAPTER V.

THE PROOF AND REGISTRATION OF THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION

Can. 894 To prove the conferral of confirmation the prescripts of ⇒ can. 876 are to be observed.

[INSERTED Canon 876 - Can. 876 To prove the conferral of baptism, if prejudicial to no one, the declaration of one witness beyond all

exception is sufficient or the oath of the one baptized if the person received baptism as an adult.]

Can. 895 The names of those confirmed with mention made of the minister, the parents and sponsors, and the place and date of the conferral of confirmation are to be recorded in the confirmation register of the diocesan curia or, where the conference of bishops or the diocesan bishop has prescribed it, in a register kept in the parish archive. The pastor must inform the pastor of the place of baptism about the conferral of confirmation so that a notation is made in the baptismal register according to the norm of ⇒ can. 535, §2.

[INSERTED Canon 535, no. 2 - Can. 535, §2. In the baptismal register are also to be noted confirmation and those things which pertain to the canonical status of the Christian faithful by reason of marriage, without prejudice to the prescript of ⇒ can. 1133, of adoption, of the reception of sacred orders, of perpetual profession made in a religious institute, and of change of rite. These notations are always to be noted on a baptismal certificate.]

[INSERTED Canon 1133 - A marriage celebrated secretly is to be noted only in a special register to be kept in the secret archive of the curia.]

Can. 896 If the pastor of the place was not present, the minister either personally or through another is to inform him as soon as possible of the conferral of confirmation.