



Diocese of Pittsburgh

2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205-4227

Phone 412-456-3129

Website: www.diopitt.org

Department for Canonical Services

BAPTISM WITNESS AFFIDAVIT

In order to come to moral certainty regarding baptism, witnesses may need to be interviewed. In general, two witnesses are required. The sole exception allowing for only one witness is for the case of an individual that was baptized as an adult and who can testify to their own baptism. The information below should be completed as completely as possible and in the presence of a priest or deacon.

If two witnesses cannot be located, or if they cannot recall complete information, the individual's baptism should be considered doubtful and appropriate action should be taken (conditional baptism, request a precautionary dispensation from Disparity of Cult, etc.)

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Department for Canonical Services: 412-456-3129. Canonical Services is happy to consult on any individual cases.

Name and Address of Baptized: _____

Date of Birth of Baptized: _____ Date of Baptism: _____

Religion of Baptism: _____ If Catholic: Roman
 Eastern
(specify) _____

Name and Address of Baptismal Location: _____

Name and Address of Witness: _____

Witness's Relationship to the Baptized: _____

Were you present at the Baptism? Yes No

If not, how do you know of the baptism? _____

Additional Proofs of Baptism (include if available)

Witness Affidavit Photographs Videos Other: _____

Was water used in the Baptism? How was it used? _____

What were the words of the formula of baptism said by the minister? _____

In the baptismal formula, did the minister of baptism substitute for any of the traditional names of the Blessed Trinity? That is, instead of saying, "...in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," did the minister say, "...in the name of the Creator and of the Redeemer and of the Sanctifier," or something similar?

- Traditional Trinitarian Names Used
- Substitute Names Used
- Unsure (explain) _____

In the baptismal formula, did the minister, did the minister say, "I baptized you..." or substitute anything else for the word "I" such as, "We baptize you...", "The community baptizes you..." etc.?

- "I baptize you..."
- "We baptize you..." (or other substitution)
- Unsure (explain) _____

Did the same minister who poured the water also say the words of the baptismal formula?

Yes

No

Did anything unusual happen during the baptism? If so, explain: _____

Are you totally confident of the person's baptism?

Yes

No

If not, explain: _____

OATH STATEMENT

I, (print name) _____, solemnly swear before God and my conscience, that I have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, insofar as I know it.

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____

Priest/Deacon/ Signature: _____

Parish Seal