

CASE SPONSOR APPOINTMENT



DIOCESE OF MADISON-TRIBUNAL · 702 S. High Point Rd., Suite 225 · Madison, WI 53719-4926 · 608-821-3060 · tribunal@madisondiocese.org

During the marriage nullity process, you may have a special need for pastoral care, guidance, and support from your pastor or another priest. Because of the confidentiality of the process, pastors are not notified of the progress of their parishioners' cases or given copies of the procedural documents in those cases without the party's consent, and sometimes this can limit their ability to anticipate or respond to your pastoral needs. You can authorize the sharing of some or all of this information by naming your pastor or another priest or deacon as your case sponsor. In the rare case that a priest or deacon will be proposed as a witness in the case, he may not also serve as sponsor. Appointing a case sponsor is optional, and you can do so at any stage of the marriage nullity process. To appoint a sponsor, fill out this form, sign it along with the sponsor, and present it to the tribunal.

After verifying your prospective sponsor's willingness, please fill out, sign, and date the following statement. Once both you and the sponsor have signed this document, please send it to the Tribunal.

For the party in the case:

I appoint _____ as my case sponsor, and I authorize him to (check all that apply)

- ☐ Receive periodic updates about the progress of my case.
- ☐ Receive copies of the decrees and other procedural documents issued in my case.
- ☐ Receive copies of the closing arguments and responses in my case.
- ☐ Receive a copy of the definitive sentence issued in the case.

I understand that the purpose of releasing this information is to assist him in giving pastoral care and support.

I recognize that my case sponsor is not my canonical advocate or procurator, that I cannot look to him for expert canonical advice, that he does not represent me before the tribunal, that he cannot sign or submit documents on my behalf.

I acknowledge that, even though my sponsor will receive this information, it does not make him responsible for informing me of the procedural steps to be taken or deadlines to be met, which remain my sole responsibility.

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Signature of Party

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Date

For the case sponsor:

I agree to serve as case sponsor to the party who has nominated me.

I acknowledge that the purpose for which I am receiving this information is to assist me in giving pastoral care and support.

I promise that I will treat this information confidentially and that I will not share or discuss it with anyone other than the party.

I recognize that I am not the party's canonical advocate or procurator, and that any advice or guidance that I give must respect the limits of my role and competence.

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Signature of Priest or Deacon

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Parish City

PLEASE NOTE that a case sponsor is not the same as a canonical advocate or procurator. A case sponsor provides you with pastoral, moral, and spiritual support and guidance, while a canonical advocate is an expert in canon law who, by your mandate, advises you and argues on your behalf before the tribunal. The two roles are distinct and complementary. You should not expect your case sponsor to be an expert in canon law or to give you any kind of canonical advice for your case, nor can your case sponsor contact the tribunal on your behalf or place any actions in your name. By the same token, your advocate is not in a position to give you pastoral or moral support. Every party has the right to choose to appoint a canonical advocate, either alongside a case sponsor or not. Contact the tribunal or visit the tribunal website for more information on canonical advocates.