

As to the parties' Freedom to marry – as to Baptism – as to Confirmation

When a person is unable to provide proof of his/her freedom to marry or if there subsists a doubt even in the presence of documents, two witnesses can make a sworn statement to the effect that the party is indeed free to marry. It is also possible to request that the concerned party or his/her witnesses make such a sworn statement before a duly authorized civil officer.

As for Baptism, this form is used for a Catholic who is unable to provide a baptismal certificate or an extract. In this case, the sworn testimony of the concerned party, or of one eyewitness or even the baptizing minister is sufficient to establish the existence of baptism.

As for Confirmation, this form is used in case of a Catholic who is unable to provide an official document proving he/she has been confirmed. A sworn statement by the concerned party or the deposition of an eyewitness is sufficient to establish the existence of Confirmation. Questions 16 to 19 will be sufficient to constitute an affidavit without the witness having to be sworn.

QUALITY OF THE WITNESS

Name of the person for whom the witness is testifying about: _____

Interviewer: With your right hand on the Bible (or, if the witness is a non-Christian: *on your honour*), do you swear to tell the whole truth in answering the questions put to you? _____

1. Your name _____ Age _____
Personally known to the interviewer Proof of identity
2. Address _____ Occupation _____
_____ Telephone _____
3. Are you related to the person about whom you are making this testimony?
If so, what is your relationship? _____
4. How long have you known this person? _____
5. Have you remained in constant contact with min/her? _____

PROOF OF FREEDOM TO MARRY

6. Do you know where the person about whom you are testifying has been living since his/her teens?

 7. To your knowledge, has he/she ever contracted a religious or civil marriage? _____
If yes, with whom? _____
Where? _____
name of church or municipality
- Date of this marriage _____ Has this marriage ended with the death of the other party? _____
Has it been dissolved or declared null by the Church? _____ and also by civil authorities? _____

over

PROOF OF BAPTISM

Declaration made by the person concerned.

8. Why is it not possible to obtain an extract or a certificate of your baptism? _____

9. How do you know you have been baptized? _____

10. Where have you been baptized? _____ Date _____
By whom? _____
Who were your godparents? _____
11. Were your brothers and sisters baptized? _____
Were your parents religious? Were they attending church? _____

Declaration of a witness other than the person concerned.

12. Do you know if _____ has been baptized? _____
name of the person about whom the witness is testifying
13. How do you know? _____
14. Where has he/she been baptized? _____
When? _____ by whom _____
15. Were the parents religious? Were they attending church? _____

PROOF OF CONFIRMATION

16. Declaration as to the Confirmation of _____
17. Why is it not possible to provide a certificate of Confirmation? _____

18. Date of Confirmation _____ Place _____
19. How do you know that the Confirmation took place? _____

After the document has been read, make any necessary additions or modifications, ask the witness if he/she has anything else to declare and sign:

Signed in the parish of _____ Date _____

priest receiving the testimony

Seal
of
Parish

witness