



Rights and Responsibilities of Parents and Guardians in Parish Faith Formation Programs

This policy is provided for guidance to parishes regarding separated and divorced parents when they come to the parish to enroll their children and youth for Faith Formation Programming and for the reception of the Sacraments. It is also meant to protect the rights of parents and legal guardians in their desires to form their children in a faith, whether Catholic or otherwise. It is in the best interest of the children/youth to have everyone on the same page in these cases.

1. It is the obligation and the right of the Catholic Church to provide and support the faith development of its baptized members. Therefore, in the case of a child/youth baptized in the Catholic faith, either parent or a legal guardian can enroll their child in Faith Formation and/or Sacramental Preparation in the Diocese of St. Augustine at their domicile parish. The assumption is made that once the child has been baptized Catholic, the other sacraments should ensue.
2. When a child who is not baptized Catholic, is brought forward for Faith Formation and/or Sacramental Preparation, the person who enrolls the child or youth must provide either: (1) written consent of the other non-enrolling parent or legal guardian on the form provided below or (2) appropriate legal documentation at the time of enrollment of his/her sole authority to enroll the child. This could be a court order or other formal documentation.

Unless the parish is provided with a court order to the contrary, the person who enrolls the child/youth at the parish will be deemed the primary contact person for all Faith Formation related issues involving the child/youth. However, either parent or legal guardian may be entitled, upon reasonable request and consistent with any specific limitation of a court document, to have equal access to documents or other information concerning the child/youth's instruction at the parish.

In the case of conflicting instructions regarding the faith formation of a baptized Catholic, the parish will request that both parents and/or the guardians seek appropriate court instructions for the parish. All faith formation programs in the Diocese of St. Augustine will respect and comply with lawful court orders.

Acknowledgement and Consent of Divorced Parents or Legal guardians

We, _____ {print names of
parents or Legal Guardians} hereby acknowledge that we have read and
understand the above Rights and Responsibilities of the Divorced,
Separated Parents, or Legal Guardians when enrolling a child/youth in the
parish's Faith Formation Program and/or Sacramental Preparation.

We consent to the enrollment of {Print Names of children/youth}

in the Parish Faith Formation Program and we consent to his/her reception
of the Sacraments.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian (enrolling)

Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian (non-enrolling)

Date

Maintain original in parish office, provide copy of policy and form to parents/guardians.