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## Affirmation/Promises by Godparents/ Guideparents/Mentors/Sponsors/ Life Guardians/Guardians

While traditionally Godparents have been chosen to affirm their commitment to the new baby, in the contemporary naming ceremony other names such as Guideparents, Guardians, Sponsors, Mentors, Life Guardians are used. The reason, though, remains the same.

These are special people, chosen by the parents of the baby, who they want to take special interest in their son or daughter.

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### No. 1

Godparents/Guideparents/Mentors/Sponsors/Guardians

Celebrant:

Many cultures believe that to raise a child with a balanced perspective it takes a whole community. As his parents, the duty befalls you to safeguard (Baby's) future.

Have you chosen those who will aid you in giving love and council to your child as he grows? To whom if the Fates and the Gods see fit to remove you from this world, would you entrust to take (Baby) into their care and see to it that she is raised as you would have raised him?

Parents:

We have picked (Godparents) as the Godparents for (Baby).

Godparents/Mentors/Sponsors step forward

F of the Baby:

We believe they are kind, loving people who will always have the best interest of (Baby) at heart.

M of the Baby:

(Godparents) know how we would have our son raised, and will do their best to raise him in that manner.

Celebrant:

(Godparents), You have heard the parents of this baby, are you aware of the hopes they have for her, and are you willing and able to guide her in the manner they would wish you to do?

## AFFIRMATION BY GODPARENTS

Godparents: I am.

Celebrant: Will you take the responsibility, should the need arise, to see to it that (Baby) is raised in accordance with their wishes?

Godparents: I will.

Celebrant: May the time never come for you to act upon this vow, but always know how special you are that (Parents of the Baby) should entrust you with the care of the most precious thing that they have in the world.

### No. 2

Celebrant: In this age of the nuclear family, when so many of us live isolated from family and friends, godparents are invested with an important role in the life of this child.

They undertake a special and lifelong interest in the welfare of the child; and to assume a more than ordinary responsibility in the event of anything happening to the parents.

So now I ask Godparents) are you willing to accept the serious responsibility of a lifelong interest in (Baby)?

Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: I ask, the Godparents, and everyone here present, to repeat after me:-  
We agree to call you (Baby) and from now on we shall call you (Baby).

We wish that your life be long, that it be filled with meaning and purpose, that all who come in contact with you will be better for having known you.

### No. 3

Celebrant: Reading from the Gospel of Mark Chapter 10 verse 13-16  
People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away but when Jesus saw this he was upset and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me. Do not stop them, to such as these the kingdom of God belongs.

## AFFIRMATION BY GODPARENTS

Anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing. This is the Good News of Jesus. We do this in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.'

I now call upon the Parents and Godparents to place their hand on (Baby) as a sign of their love and commitment.

(Parents and Godparents), to become fully aware of your responsibilities to (Child's Name) I call upon you to make your commitment to her.

**Godparents** I commit myself to present (Baby) with a broad and balanced view of life, and to encourage her in the virtues, that all men and women agree as good – integrity, honesty, concern, fairness and love towards her fellow human beings, to know and love God her creator.

### No. 4

**Celebrant:** The bond between parents and their children is very strong, but the support and encouragement of others is vital for the development of this child. An important tradition in our culture on this occasion is the responsibility accepted by the Godparents.

(Parents of the Baby) have chosen Godparents for their child for whom they have the highest regard. Godparents should be willing to take a special and lifelong interest in the moral and ethical development of their Godchild.

As you accept the role of a Godparent, you are agreeing to be an adult friend to (Baby), to whom he can turn for loving support and guidance as he grows.

Will you accept this commitment and responsibility? Will you be kind to (Baby), help look after him, and surround him with love and affection?

**Godparents:** I will.

**Celebrant:** (Godparents) please say these words to (Baby):

**Godparents:** We, the Godparents, agree to reserve a special place in our hearts for (Baby). To offer our support whenever possible.

## AFFIRMATION BY GODPARENTS

**Celebrant:** (Godparents), please light your candle from (Baby's) candle, and repeat after me:

**Godparents:** As I light this candle, I confirm that I am part of (Baby's) personal family. (Baby) may always turn to me for guidance, comfort and love.

### No. 5

**Celebrant:** The next special and unique step in this ceremony involves the godparents.

In this age of the nuclear family when many of us live isolated from our family and friends, godparents have perhaps a more important role today than they have had in the past. They undertake a special and lifelong interest in the welfare of their godchild and to assume a more than ordinary responsibility in the event of the death or default of the parents.

So, I now ask the godparents, are you, (Godparents), willing to accept this serious charge?

**Godparents:** I am.

### No. 6

**Celebrant:** The role of Godparents is an important one. Godparents provide both the strength of family and the comfort of friendship to a child. (Parents of the Baby) have chosen their friends (Godparents) to fulfill these roles.

(Godparents), will you please come forward to promise to uphold the responsibilities you are undertaking?

Will you accept a lifelong interest in (Baby's) well-being, growth and development?

Will you keep careful watch over (Child's Name) as he grows?

Will you be ready to advise, encourage and comfort him, and to be his friend and confidante when necessary?

**Godparents:** I will.

## AFFIRMATION BY GODPARENTS

### No. 7

**Celebrant:** (Parents of the Baby) have chosen (Number) of very special individuals who they hope will help shape the baby's life. Children need role models who are not their parents.

(Parents) recognize that there will be times when they do not have the answers. Their hope is that their daughter will be able to turn to her mentors (Names of Mentors).

A mentor is a wise and trusted guide, an advisor who has nurtured a special relationship with a protégé that allows for the free exchange of ideas and advice. A mentoring relationship is meaningful and deeply rewarding to both child and mentor.

(Names of Mentors), will you look upon this child, your protégé, with affection and will you give to her your guidance, friendship and inspiration?

**Mentors:** I will.

### No. 8

**Celebrant:** Would the supporting adults (or Godparents) for (Baby) please come forward?

The supporting adults come to the front with the parents and the celebrant.

**Celebrant:** Will you, (First Godparent), as best you can, keep in touch with (Baby) while he is growing up? Will you recognise his birthdays and take an interest in his progress? Will you encourage and support him, and if need be look after him as you would your own child?

**Mentor:** I will.

**Celebrant:** Will you, (2<sup>nd</sup> Godparent), as best you can, keep in touch with (Baby) while she is growing up? Will you recognise her birthdays and take an interest in her progress? Will you encourage and support her, and if need be look after her as you would your own child?

**Mentor:** I will. (repeated for every Mentor)

### No. 9

**Celebrant:** (Names of Sponsors), as Sponsors to (Baby), you are charged with the responsibility of seeing to the spiritual and physical welfare of (Baby) should the need arise.



## AFFIRMATION BY GODPARENTS

**Sponsors:** Do you accept this duty and charge?  
I do.

**Celebrant:** Do you promise to love, honour, support and encourage (Baby) throughout her life?

**Sponsors** I do.

**No. 10**

**Celebrant:** Do you know what it is to be a child's Guardian?

**Guardians:** To be a guardian is to love and nurture, to show guidance and counsel. It is to help the child make choices should she need assistance. It is to be a second mother and father and to be there when called upon.

May the gods keep this child pure and perfect, and let anything that is negative stay far beyond her world.