Church of the Ascension-Godparent Form

This form is to be signed by the Godparent and their parish priest and returned to Church of the Ascension at **least two weeks prior** to the desired date of baptism. It can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to:
Church of the Ascension, ATTN: Elizabeth Whitehead, 9510 W. 127th Street, Overland Park, KS 66213
Fax: 913-681-3517 email: ewhitehead@kcascension.org
See further explanations on other side

I, _____ , phone number, _____,
(print your name)
have been asked to be a Godparent for _____.
(please print child's first and last name)

A godparent is an important person in the life of the person to be baptized. They are: 1) a spiritual role model, 2) an example of the Christian life and 3) the official representative of the Body of Christ, the Church, into which an individual is being baptized. They are to be a source of guidance, support, and inspiration to this child on his or her faith journey and, when appropriate, help the parents in the Christian formation of this child.
Specifically a Godparent must:

Be a baptized and confirmed Catholic 16 years of age or older
Be actively practicing their Catholic faith including weekly Mass participation
Be living within a marriage celebrated in union with the Catholic Church if married or not co-habiting if not married.

Please circle if you are: MALE or FEMALE
Please circle either YES or NO for each question:
YES NO Are you a Roman Catholic?
YES NO Are you at least 16 years old?
YES NO Have you received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church?
YES NO Do you attend Mass regularly on Saturdays/Sundays and receive the sacraments of the church regularly?
Answer the following only if married:
YES NO Was your present marriage celebrated in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest, or deacon or in another denomination with the written permission of a Catholic bishop?
(If not please provide an explanation.)
Answer the following only if unmarried:
YES NO Are you living with another person in a romantic relationship or as a couple?

I affirm that I meet the qualifications, and accept the responsibilities, of being a godparent. I am an active and participating Catholic and promise to the best of my ability to serve as an example in encouraging this child to participate in the sacramental life of the church.

Godparent's signature _____ Date _____
Pastor's signature (Godparent's pastor)_____
Name of Parish_____ Phone # _____
(If you are a member of Ascension, you can turn in without getting your Pastor's signature)

Because of the great responsibilities of a godparent, the Catholic Church has some minimum requirements it asks of all godparents to fulfill in order to serve in this role. These are set forth in the Code of Canon Law:

SPONSORS/GODPARENTS

- ***Can. 872*** *Insofar as possible, a person to be baptized is to be given a sponsor who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it.*
- ***Can. 873*** *There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.*
- ***Can. 874*** *§1. To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:*
  - *be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;*
  - *have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;*
  - *be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;*
  - *not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;*
  - *not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.*

§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may participate as a Christian Witness along with a Catholic Godparent.

Regarding the questions:

1. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION: A godparent must be a Roman Catholic because the godparent is an official representative of the Catholic Church. Christians of other denominations whose baptism is recognized as valid in the Catholic Church may serve as a Christian Witness for the baptism of a Catholic. Christians whose baptism is not recognized as valid in the Catholic Church and Non-Christians may not serve as a godparent or Christian Witness.
2. MINIMUM AGE: A godparent must generally be 16 by the date of the baptism. (exceptions by pastor may be made with reason.)
3. SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: a godparent is a baptized Catholic who has received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
4. FREEDOM TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS: The godparent is a practicing Catholic who is spiritually free to receive Holy Communion when he or she come to Mass.
5. MARITAL STATUS: A Catholic godparent who is married must be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church. Those in their first marriage must have been married either a) in a Catholic Church ceremony or b) in a church/synagogue ceremony with the permission of the Catholic Church. Catholics in second marriages must have had their first marriage annulled and their second marriage recognized or convalidated by the Catholic Church. Catholics presently in civil or common law marriages are not eligible to serve as a god-parent.
6. UNMARRIED STATUS: If unmarried, a godparent must be living a life consistent with a single person as defined by the Catholic Church. Anyone cohabitating with another person, e.g. living in a romantic relationship or as a couple, is ineligible to serve.