

Emergency Baptism

Policy No. 614

Policy Statement:

An infant in danger of death whose parents request the sacrament of Baptism is to be baptized without delay (c.867 §2).

An adult in danger of death can be baptized if, having some knowledge of the principal truths of the faith, the adult has manifested in any way at all the intention to receive Baptism and promises to observe the commandments of the Christian religion (c.865 §2).

Intent of Policy:

That no one in danger of death be deprived of Baptism.

Procedure:

- When Baptism occurs in a hospital or institution, the appropriate RC Baptism Information Form (Appendix 614A-E) is to be completed and forwarded to the **territorial (designated) parish** assigned to the hospital or institution, at the earliest convenience after the Baptism.

Parishes with a hospital or institution assigned to them will provide the hospital/institution pastoral care department with the appropriate RC Baptism Information Form (Appendix 614A-E).

NB. The RC Baptism Information Form (Appendix 614E) is used for the designated parish to place its coordinates at the bottom.

- Upon receipt of the completed Baptism Information Form from the hospital or institution, the parish will record the Baptism in the Baptism Register along with all the relevant details and keep the Baptism Information Form in the Permanent File.
- The parish may issue a preliminary Baptism Certificate indicating “Based on the Baptism Information Form from [Name of Hospital]” and forward it to the address indicated on the Baptism Information Form.
- At a later date, the parish will ask the parents or newly baptized adult to provide the Birth Certificate before issuing the official Baptism Certificate. (See Policies No. 603 and No. 814).

NB. If the person is deceased shortly after Baptism, subsequent Baptism Certificates will indicate “Based on Baptism Information Form from [Name of Hospital].”

Location of Baptism Registers for recording Baptism conferred in hospitals or institutions:

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|--------------------------------|--|
| University of Alberta Hospital | St. Anthony, Edmonton |
| Misericordia Hospital | Annunciation, Edmonton |
| Grey Nuns Hospital | St. Theresa, Edmonton |
| Sturgeon General Hospital | Holy Family, St. Albert |
| Red Deer Regional Hospital | Sacred Heart, Red Deer |
| Royal Alexandra Hospital | St. Andrew, Edmonton |
| Cross Cancer Institute | St. Anthony, Edmonton |
| Edmonton Maximum Institute | St. Dominic Savio, Edmonton |
| Edmonton Institution for Women | Annunciation, Edmonton |
| Edmonton Remand Centre | Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, Edmonton |
| Bowden Institute | Our Lady of Peace, Innisfail |
| Alberta Hospital | St. John Bosco, Edmonton |

- a) When a priest is conferring the Baptism, in the case of an adult, and if he has Chrism, he is to also confer Confirmation.

For emergency Confirmation, it is sufficient for the priest to do the laying on of hands and the anointing with Chrism while saying, "N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." (RConf, 39)

- b) When a priest is not available, in case of necessity, any person can baptize provided that he or she has:
- the intention to baptize as the Church baptizes
 - pours water on the candidate's head while saying: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1284)
- c) When a Baptism ceremony is supplied in the parish of the person baptized in the hospital/institution, the information regarding the ceremony is to be forwarded to the parish where the Baptism Register Entry was made (designated parish). The ceremony supplied information is added in the Annotation Column. The name of the Sponsor(s) is added in the appropriate column.

Refer to Policy:

- No. 603 Registration Requirements for Baptism
- No. 615 Permanent File
- No. 807 Location
- No. 811 Baptism and Profession of Faith Entries
- No. 814 Baptism Certificate
- No. 817 Confirmation Register Entries

Refer to Appendix:

614A RC Baptism Information Form – Misericordia Hospital

614B RC Baptism Information Form – Grey Nuns Hospital

614C RC Baptism Information Form – Royal Alexandra Hospital

614D RC Baptism Information Form – University of Alberta Hospital

614E RC Baptism Information Form

