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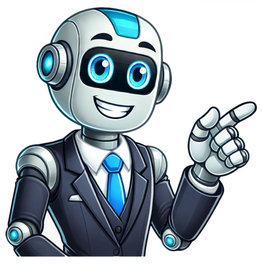

We use some essential cookies to make this website work. We'd like to set additional cookies to understand how you use GOV.UK, remember your settings and improve government services. We also use cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services. You have accepted additional cookies. You can change your cookie settings at any time. You have rejected additional cookies. You can change your cookie settings at any time. jingleyjen · 30/04/2008 12:14 One of DS's godparents is no longer in our family, messy horrid problem, I just don't want to have to ever explain to DSs that he even was around. We collate some videos to give you some different views on Baptism. You will see four selected randomly and then a list of all the others. N.B. Each of these videos will have a certain religious / non-religious position and may be from a specific Church - to help you understand that context we place icons by the video: Anglican | Roman Catholic | Baptist | Methodist | Non-Religious - all views are those of the person / organisation making the video. 03:11 Vicars talk about baptism Church of England 01:53 Why parents get their children christened Church of England 03:40 Who can be a godparent? Can I have two godmothers? The Catholic TV Network 07:14 Fr. Robert Barron on The Sacrament of Baptism wordonfirevideo2 25:31 Baptism: a Life-long Celebration General Synod - Church of Canada 07:53 Christian Baptism TrueTube.co.uk 05:42 How to Be a Godparent with Nancy McLaughlin Church Next 01:53 Baptisms - a chance to start again Archbishop of York 00:04 1 - Baptism in the Life of Jesus Christ Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, N.Z. 00:04 2 - What is Baptism Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, N.Z. 00:06 3 - The responsibility of Parents Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, N.Z. 00:02 4 - The Role of Godparents Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, N.Z. 00:04 5 - The Day of Baptism Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, N.Z. 00:06 6 - Baptism: Signs and Symbols Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, N.Z. 00:02 How to be a Good Godparent Good Catholic 00:01 Godparents' Sunday - Ellie's Story The Church of England 00:01 Godparents' Sunday - Harvey's Story The Church of England 00:01 Godparents' Sunday - Arun's Story The Church of England 00:01 Godparents' Sunday - Penny's Story The Church of England 00:01 Baptism & Confirmation in the Anglican Church RE:quest 00:04 N.T.Wright on Baptism Seedbed © . Privacy Policy In England and Wales, a mother can refuse to put a father on their child's birth certificate. There is no legal requirement in England and Wales for the mother to put down a father on the birth certificate if they are not married or in a civil partnership. In this article, we will explain the implications of a father's name not being placed on the birth certificate, whether a father can place himself on a birth certificate, and what to do if the mother refuses to put the father on the birth certificate. A father is not on the birth certificate of their child, they have no automatic legal right over or parental responsibility for their child unless the mother provides permission. If a father is named on a birth certificate, they have the same parental rights as the mother. It is surprisingly common for fathers not to be named on birth certificates, often leaving them unsure of their legal rights. The consequence of a father not being named on a birth certificate is that they have no legal rights or duties towards their child. As such, the father cannot make important decisions on behalf of the child regarding their religion, schooling, and medical care. If a father is not named on a birth certificate, the mother of the child can still give permission for the child to live with their father. The problem is that the mother can request that the child be returned at any time against the wishes of the father. However, if the father is added to the birth certificate, they then have the legal right to contest custody. A father may be able to add themselves to the birth certificate of their child; the process for doing so depends on whether they are married or unmarried (or in a civil partnership). If the child's parents are married, or in a civil partnership, a father has the legal right to put himself on the birth certificate, as both parents have the legal right to register the birth. If the child's parents are unmarried or not in a civil partnership, the mother can put the father's name on the birth certificate without them there. As such, if the couple is not married at the time of the child's birth, the father cannot register the birth of the child. In this case, in order for the father to be added to the birth certificate, they must have the permission of the child's mother. If a mother refuses to put the father on the birth certificate, the father can request a "declaration of parentage" from the court under Section 55A of the Family Law Act 1986. To do this, the father will need to complete and submit Court Form C63, providing their details and those of the mother and child. The applicant must explain why they are applying for a declaration of parentage and provide details of their connection to England and Wales, their nationality, citizenship or immigration status, and a statement of truth. The process of seeking a declaration of parentage is a lengthy one and can take between 6 and 12 months to complete. If the application is approved, the father can then ask for the child's birth certificate to be amended with their name. Where a non-biological father has been added to a birth certificate, an application can be made for a correction to remove the wrong father's details (application form to remove the wrong father's details). The applicant will need to include sufficient proof that the person named on the certificate is not the biological father of the child (e.g. a DNA test report or a court order). A fee of £90 must also be paid. Yes, it is illegal to put the wrong father on the birth certificate. If a mother deliberately puts the wrong father on her child's birth certificate, this may be a criminal offence in accordance with the Perjury Act 1911, potentially leading to imprisonment. I am now a godparent - what next... ? What can I do with / for my godchild? There are many different ways of being a godparent, and having a relationship with your godchild - from a card each year on their birthday, through to playing a regular role in their life. No one pattern is right or wrong, it will be up to you the parents and (as they get older) the child to define your specific relationship. Here you will find some simple ideas which might help, some are 'Christian' ideas to help build their faith (the core concept behind being a godparent), but others are equally applicable where there is simply a relationship whether religious or not. Godparents and baptisms - a confusing other world for most people, whether church members or not. Below we tackle some of your questions and offer answers which may have either a religious (Christian) perspective, or a secular perspective, or both depending on the question. Christian view Once a month, once a week, or daily - praying for your godchild is a core part of being a godparent. The promises made during a baptism include helping to bring the child up to know God, praying is one of the ways of doing that. If you are not used to praying don't worry, just think of it as talking to God about your godchild. You can pray about what they are doing, events in their life, and how they grow up to become an adult. Christian view For children who are baptised as infants, they won't remember the day, but children who are batised at an older age might. It is a lovely opportunity to contact them, remind them that they were baptised, and that you are supporting them as their godparent. Send them a card on the anniversary of their baptism each year, perhaps with a short bible verse that ties into their life. Christian view Make sure that they own a bible appropriate to their age - that means Toddler / Child / Teenager / Adult Christian view If you live locally, you can encourage them by going with them to church on a regular basis, or maybe you live at some distance so going to visit could include a trip to church. Christian view Spend time talking about your faith, be honest with them but age-appropriate. When they are younger, you might talk at a simpler level about how God / Jesus loves you and them; as they get older and start to think more about their faith, then sharing your personal story and journey is a good way of helping them to start to own their faith personally. Christian view Be there to answer questions / help them in their developing faith. The Christian fiath is a personal relationship, so each child as they grow up will need to make it their own personal relationship, but that doesn't mean that they don't need you as a godparent. They will have input from parents, school, church and other groups, but your 'role' in their life means that you are an obvious person for them to talk to about their faith. Non-religious view Get to know the child - spend time with them from baby up, read to them, play with them, talk with them. It is a relationship which needs work, there is no automatic family connection which helps build bonds automatically as a parent, uncle or aunt, so you need to put in the effort, however it is worth it and by building that relationship you can then play a supporting role as a godparent. Non-religious view Any special date in your godchild's life is worth remembering, but there are three obvious points each year where it makes sense to be in contact. Birthdays and Christmas are obvious, but you can also remember the anniversary of their baptism. Where birthdays and Christmas are widely celebrated, the anniversary of their baptism is only relevant to godchild and godparents, so it reminds them of your relationship. Non-religious view If you are looking to spend time with your godchild, then think about how you can add richness to their life. A lot of bringing up children is about giving them opportunities to experience different parts of life. So, think about how you complement their parents, if the parents are sporty, take your godchild to the theatre, if the parents prefer opera, take them to a football match. Find an activity which they do with you, something which allows you to share your passion with them. Non-religious view Be there when they need you (or the parents need you!), your role is as a supportive adult. It is easy to assume that a family is complete and offers a child all they need, but your godchild's life will be much richer for the involvement of other adults. As a trusted adult in their life, there may be times when they would prefer to ask you a question rather than their parents, or maybe need somewhere they can go to outside the home which is a trusted and safe place. You can also help the parents by giving them breathing space by spending time with your godchild. Non-religious view Introduce them to your hobbies and interests, helping them to also build life-long interests. You will have a different slant on life, and while many children take after their parents in their interests, you can add a new dimension to their life. Non-religious view Building relationships is alll about time, spend time together, take them out for the day, or on holiday if that works. Investing time in your relationship will make it easier for you to play your role as a godparent, talk about your faith and theirs, or simply to be there when needed. © . Privacy Policy Godparents and baptisms - a confusing other world for most people, whether church members or not. Below we tackle some of your questions and offer answers which may have either a religious (Christian) perspective, or a secular perspective, or both depending on the question. Christian view Along with the parents, godparents make promises to God and in front of the Church on behalf of the child. The promises are about themselves and how they will live their lives; and then about the child, that they will help them in their faith and getting to know God. Non-religious view The relationship with the child will depend on the parents, but in most cases the godparent is another significant adult in the lives of the godchild. Their role is a mixture of mentor and benevolent uncle / aunt. Christian view Yes. You do not need to be baptised to be named. Parents choose names, and they are registered on the birth certificate, it is a civil ceremony which has nothing to do with baptism. Registration welcomes the child into the world, baptism welcomes the child into the church. Christian view Some serious promises are made to God, the godparent needs to think these through before making them. Non-religious view There may be differences around the world, but for the UK: there is no legal position for a godparent - you are not guardian to the child if anything happens to the parents (unless written into the will) and you have no rights regarding the child, and the child has no rights over you. Christian view This varies by Church. In England there is a legal right to be married in the parish church of the parish in which they live. There are exceptions (divorce and same sex couples are examples of that), but lack of baptism is not a block to marriage within the Church of England. Other churches may vary, but equally there is no automatic right of marriage in any other church. Christian view You turn up at the baptism service and make your promises. You agree to support the child in their faith until such time as they take ownership of it for themselves, often with Confirmation. You pray for the child regularly and help support them in learning more about the Christian Faith as they grow up. Non-religious view Nothing formally, but expectations from the parents may vary - it might be a present at birthday and Christmas, or it could include everything from mentoring to work-experience, taking the child out for the day to introducing them to hobbies and sports. Christian view A child takes ownership of their own faith with Confirmation - when they publicly declare their faith and after which point they can take communion. A child will not be confirmed until they are considered old enough to be making the decision themselves. At this point the godparent can be considered to have fulfilled their initial promises. Non-religious view There is no formal end-point to the role of godparent, though the child's coming of age at 18 or 21 might be considered to be the normal end. However most godchildren / godparents will continue their relationship into adulthood - it is a life-long relationship, though perhaps presents stop at 21! Christian view A godparent should be baptised and confirmed within the relevant Church, though there are options where this is not the case, such as being a Christian Witness, or sponsor. It is normal for the godparent to be an adult, but not a requirement, in the Roman Catholic Church they will generally need to be over 16 and this is likely to be the expectation in other Churches. The Roman Catholic Church requires the godparent(s) to be practicising Catholics and to attend Church regularly; in the Anglican Church, while theoretically the same, the reality varies far more according to the local parish and priest. Parents and spouses are excluded from being godparent, everyone else is allowed. Non-religious view No qualifications are required, if the parents are happy to make the choice, and the godparent to accept, then that is fine. You need no experience with children, there is no formal set of things to do, so you can make it up as you go along - all you need to do is develop a relationship with the child which complements and supports their relationship with their parents and family. Christian view Yes. The bible is clear that going to heaven is based on accepting Jesus Christ as saviour, confessing your sins to Him, and then choosing to follow Him. None of that requires baptism first. There are many adults who have become Christians later in life, and who were never baptised. Baptism is a statement of your personal faith, so is encouraged in adults who become Christians, but it is not a 'pass' that gets you into heaven. Christian view In the Roman Catholic Church you can either have one (M / F) or two (1xM / 1xF) no more. In the Anglican Church the expectation since the 13th Century is 3 godparents (2 of the same sex as the godchild and one of the opposite sex), however it is not at all unusual to have more. Non-religious view The trend currently is to have an increased number of godparents, perhaps even 6 or 7. Many parents will choose one or two from their family (e.g. brothers / sisters) and then a couple of friends. Christian view There are several types of baptism service: Service of Blessing - Used for those who don't wish to make strong Christian promises about how they intend to raise their children, this is an opportunity to say thank you for the child. The Church of England has a service called: Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child. Service of Baptism - For adults who have chosen to become Christians, they make a public declaration of their faith and promises about their future. Service of Infant Baptism - For children whose parents want them to be brought up in the Christian faith. Promises are made on behalf of the children by the parent and Godparents about how they will help to raise that child. This service doesn't 'make the child a Christian' it is a welcome to the Church and a set of promises on behalf of the child - the child can then make their own promises or declaration of faith in the Confirmation service. This is the 'traditional' baptism service. Service of Dedication - Most commonly seen in the Baptist Church where they believe that Baptism has to include the person being baptised making promises for themselves, the service of dedication is an opportunity to welcome the child to the Church and make promises on their behalf. It is very similar to the service of infant baptism, but doesn't actually have a moment where the child is baptised. The Church of England also offers a service of dedication. Christian view Yes, at the heart of the concept is that you are a GODparent - i.e. someone who will help the child grow to have a personal faith and relationship with God. Exactly what this means will vary from church to church, but there is an expectation in the baptismal service that you are a christian and will help your godchild grow in faith.Non-religious view Not really - yes, the concept comes from the church, but in reality it is a word that has been adopted into mainstream society as well. There is no legal undertaking in becoming a godparent, so it can be whatever you and the parents agree. Think of it as being a way of recognising that you will have a role in their child's life, and then build that relationship in whatever way is most suitable. Christian view No. A baptism has no relevance outside the Church, it is a sign of faith, but has no legal significance. The Church doesn't have the power to appoint guardians, and parents who whish to do that must use their wills (or a similar document) to make that decision. Legislation for guardians is found in the 1988 Children Act (41|1|5). Christian view No. For many people there is a secular understanding of being a Christian (which is often seen as not being of another religion), however the bible defines being a Christian as someone who chooses to follow Jesus and makes that choice for themselves. No parent, Church or service can force a child to make a decision for themselves, they will grow up to choose whether or not they wish to become a Christian. Christian view The definition of a sacrament is based in the 17th century and defined as An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, ordained by Christ. There are therefore two sacraments in the Church, baptism and communion. It is possibly now seen as mainly a historical discussion and relevant to study of the 17th century as much as anything else. Baptism doesn't change anything (make someone a Christian), it is though a public statement of belief and an opportunity to bring a child before God and make promises regarding how they will be brought up. Christian view In the Church of England you start with a discussion with your parish church. Even if you go to another Church of England church elsewhere, you need to have the initial conversation with your local parish. For other churches, just speak to the person who runs it - they will go under one of a number of titles (priest / vicar / pastor / father / etc.). Christian view In the Church of England there is a legal obligation for a baptism to be held during the main Sunday service. This is because there are promises being made before God and before the congregation, the congregation have a role to play in supporting the parents in those promises (and commit to this in the service), so need to be present. A service for thanksgiving has far fewer restrictions on timing. As with any similar service, start by talking to the vicar who runs the church. © . Privacy Policy Choosing a child's godparents is difficult, picking adults who you invite into your life, for a relationship with a child for the next 20+ years is a big step. You don't yet know the child's character, or what their interests will be, however there are lots of positive reasons for choosing godparents so we suggest a few ways of thinking about it. Godparents and baptisms - a confusing other world for most people, whether church members or not. Below we tackle some of your questions and offer answers which may have either a religious (Christian) perspective, or a secular perspective, or both depending on the question. Family Your extended family might be very close to you, and choosing members of the family as godparents helps to cement that relationship, it is quite normal to choose aunts or uncles to also be godparents. However, those family members will already have a relationship with the child in their family role, so it might not be necessary to go beyond that family relationship.Friends Friends offer a great opportunity to expand the network of people who play a role in the child's life, inviting them to become a godparent can cement a friendship and establish them as one of the family. However, be aware that it can also be divisive in some friendship circles, so caution may be required! Also think through the long-term nature of what you are asking, while family is always family, even if you fall-out, friends can come and go, but being a godparent is a long-term relationship. Christian This should be simple - a godparent is called to support their godchild in their faith, and in building a relationship with God - that is the primary purpose. Choosing a godparent who has a strong personal faith, and who will pray for the child (and its family), and encourage them to go to Church / read the bible / etc. is an important consideration. In some Churches there is a requirement for godparents to be baptised, or an active member of that Church.Not Perhaps not so simple! Yes, the Christian support is the primary original aim, but today things are never so straight-forward. A godparent also has an important role as a 'significant adult' in the child's life and this can mean many things instead of or in addition to the Christian elements. For some parents and godparents the faith side is less important than making sure that the godparent's character and lifestyle, commitment and enthusiasm all fit in with the parents' approach. Some Churches will insist that godparents are baptised or members of the Church - but there may also be the opportunity to have Christian Witnesses (RC Church) or non-baptised godparents in some circumstances. Singles Choosing a single person as godparent can be advantageous in that they could have more time to devote to their godchild, for some their godchild will be their opportunity to spend time with the younger generation - or even to provide opportunities for them. However, a single person may be more likely to move, or change priorities in life, so it is perhaps more difficult to predict the future relationship with their godchild.Couples For many parents, a godparent will be one of their child's role models, so choosing a couple (either both as godparents, or one of the couple), allows the parents to understand the nature of that relationship and pick couples that suit the role models they would like - either picking a variety for diversity, or choosing to reinforce the pattern they wish to develop in their own family. Couples often come with, or have families and that can help build relationships over time, however it can also mean less time available for the godchild - the godparents' own family coming first. Close by It is much easier to build a relationship when you live near-by, a distant relationship requires a lot more work, and is likely to suffer. Being local does allow the godparent to easily attend school plays, or cheer the child on from the side of the playing field.Distant Godparents are likely to move at some point, so it is more important to choose someone willing to put in the effort, than just choosing on geography. And you might have one eye on what the godparent can offer the child - so that friend of yours living in Australia / next to an African safari park, might prove valuable during the child's gap-year. In the intervening years, regular writing / emails / skype calls, or just keeping in touch on social media can all help. © . Privacy Policy If you had planned to have your child baptised but it couldn't happen because of a national lockdown, you will have had to postpone this special day. Now that christenings are possible again, you can contact a church and begin to make plans. These are some of the questions you might have. Do parents have to be christened? You can have your child baptized at a christening regardless of whether or not you, the parents, are baptized. It is only the godparents who are required to be baptized, (so the only time a parent would have to be baptized is if they were also acting as a godparent). Is a baptism different to a christening? There is no difference between a christening service and a baptism service. Some churches will use the word 'baptism' and some the word 'christening'. The moment when your child has water poured or wiped on their head is the actual baptism and is at the heart of the service. Babies are baptized during a christening service just as couples are 'married' during a 'wedding' service. Why is a christening an 'amazing journey'? When a child is baptized with water, they are welcomed into the family of the church. It also marks the start of a lifetime of discovery about the Christian faith and how life-changing that can be. It's a journey of surprises, challenges and adventure. And through it all, God is always with us. Can anyone have a christening service? The Church of England welcomes all babies, children and families for christenings – whatever shape that family takes. You do not have to be married or have been a regular churchgoer – as a parent, you do not even have to have been baptized yourself – though you could be. Everyone is welcome at their local church. Just ask your local vicar if this is something you are considering for your child. At what age should a child be christened? There's no specified minimum or maximum age for having a child christened. When a child is christened, the parents and godparents will make promises on their behalf. Older children (perhaps around the age of 12) may be mature enough to make the promises for themselves. Talk to your vicar about baptizing an older child and how this might differ from a baby's christening service. Where can we hold the christening? You can have your baby christened at your local parish church. If you'd like to have the christening at a different church, for example, where you grew up or where you were married, talk to the vicar at that church to see what's possible. Unless there are very exceptional circumstances, a christening must always take place in a church, so it's usually not possible to have a christening at home, in a function room or outdoors. How much does a christening service cost? The good news is that a christening service is free. There may be costs for your family party afterwards, so you may need to budget for hire of a venue and refreshments. You may also like to buy your child a christening gift, or christening robes, but these are not compulsory, (in fact, christening gowns that have been handed down through the family may have more meaning for you, as well as saving money). Can we have a private christening? Christenings usually take place during the Sunday service of a church, so that the whole congregation can offer a warm welcome to you and your family. There may be opportunities to have a service at a different time, again usually on a Sunday, but talk to the vicar and ask their advice about what is possible at your church. Is there a minimum age for godparents? If you're thinking of asking a person who is under 18 to be a godparent, first talk to the vicar who will be taking the service. You will be able to talk together about whether this is the right decision, both for your child and for the young godparent. There is actually no minimum age for godparents, but the chosen person must be mature enough to understand the lifelong commitment and responsibility they are taking on. It's a demanding role, but some quite young people do feel ready for these responsibilities. The vicar taking your service can help you decide. Do godparents have to be confirmed? Godparents have a really special role in supporting a child in their Christian faith. The preparation and promises made at a confirmation demonstrate a commitment to living a Christian life, a model for a child just beginning their own amazing journey of faith. For this reason, it is preferable that godparents are confirmed, but if three confirmed godparents simply can't be found, the church's own law allows for these circumstances. The best thing to do is speak to the vicar who will be doing the baptism for further advice. Is it possible to have godparents by proxy? Godparents are really important people at a christening. A person can only be an official godparent if they are physically present at the service, since they will make some big promises for and on behalf of the child on the day. As they are already making promises on behalf of the child, to have another person making promises on their behalf confuses who is making promises on behalf of who! So there is actually no provision in the Church of England for 'godparents by proxy'. However, if a special person who you wanted to be a godparent is unable to make it to a christening, there is no reason why they can't be asked to take on a godparent-like role unofficially, and that kind of relationship can be encouraged throughout the child's life, but they wouldn't be entered into the Baptism Register after the christening. If the church has the facilities, they could perhaps be linked via Skype or similar software, so they can still see the service. Can parents be godparents? To ensure a child will have three godparents, it is possible for one or both of the parents to be godparents, so long as they are christened themselves. If both parents are godparents, then just one additional godparent will be required for the service to make up the minimum of three. If you're struggling to find godparents, talk to your vicar who would be pleased to advise. Can we change our godparents after a christening? Godparents make big promises at a christening, and their names will be permanently recorded in the church's Baptism Register. Because of the lifelong commitment of parents and godparents at a christening, there can be no 're-christening' once it has taken place, and there's no official way to change the godparents. However, if a family finds themselves without the support of their chosen godparents, for whatever reason, they are free to ask others in their life to take on a similar role unofficially. It may also be helpful to talk to the local vicar for further advice. Do we have to have three godparents? There should be at least three godparents at a christening – two who are the same sex as the child and one who is the opposite sex. The Church of England laws about this will have been agreed long ago with the best interests of a child at heart. But the laws also allow for the different circumstances of families, so if three really cannot be found, then two will suffice. Talk to your vicar if you're struggling to find three godparents and they'd be pleased to advise you. How many godparents can I have? Every child should have at least three godparents, two of the same sex and at least one of the opposite sex to your child. Although there is no official maximum number of godparents, three or four is usual. If you'd like more than that, talk to your vicar about the practicalities and they'll be pleased to advise. Both parents may be godparents for their own children, providing they are baptized themselves and providing they have at least one other godparent. Do godparents have to be baptized? Godparents are really important people at a christening. They will make some big promises in church to support their godchild in their Christian faith for a lifetime. For this reason, a godparent must be baptized themselves and ideally confirmed too. Visit the pages below and right to find out more about why godparents are so special. Do godparents have to be confirmed? Godparents have a really special role in supporting a child in their Christian faith. The preparation and promises made at a confirmation demonstrate a commitment to living a Christian life, a model for a child just beginning their own amazing journey of faith. For this reason, it is preferable that godparents are confirmed, but if three confirmed godparents simply can't be found, the church's own law allows for these circumstances. The best thing to do is speak to the vicar who will be doing the baptism for further advice. Do godparents have to be baptized in the Church of England? It is a basic requirement that godparents should be baptized themselves, and ideally confirmed too, but that doesn't necessarily mean their baptism/confirmation should have been in the Church of England. People who have been baptized in the Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, United Reformed Church and other Christian denominations, can also be godparents at a Church of England christening. Are godparents also legal guardians? Godparents are not the people who will care for the child should anything happen to the parents. Arrangements for this would normally be made by a Will. Visit the pages below and right to find out more about what being a godparent means. How do I find out if I am christened? Every christening is recorded in the Baptism Register of the church where it took place. Many christenings take place during infancy and often in the local church of the child. So a good place to begin searching for a baptism record is at the local parish church where you, (or the person whose record you're looking for), lived as an infant. Try finding this church by searching on A Church Near You. If you know the postcode of where you or the person lived, enter that into the search box and that should give you a more accurate result. The local church will be highlighted in red. Click on the church's name to see more details. The vicar or church office details should be given under the 'contact us' tab of each individual church. Once you're in touch with the church, you can ask them to do a search in their Baptism Register to try and find your baptism record. Provide as much information as you can, including the year the christening took place, if you know it. There is a statutory charge for a search in the Registers, which in 2018 is £29/hour. If a record is found, an official copy can be made, which costs £14. How can I be involved in a christening? Just being present at the service shows that you support the child and their family in the choice they have made. As part of the service, everyone will be asked to promise to continue supporting the child on their journey of faith. A wonderful way to do this is to keep praying for the child and their family. Visit our prayer pages to see the kinds of prayers you can use before and after the day. You may also wish to give the child a christening gift. A brief outline of vocabulary you might come across and what it means. The practice of baptising an adult. This is either because the Church has a preference for adult baptisms, (maybe offering dedications for children), or because the adult has become a Christian at an older age and not been pabtised previously. As the adult is capable of making the decisions and promises for themselves, they would generally not have Godparents. A worldwide branch of the Protestant (non Roman Catholic) Church. The head of the Anglican Commmunion is currently the incumbent Archibishop of Canterbury A member of the clergy responsible for a groups of bishops / dioceses - generally the top job in the church Atheist is better understood as 'a-theist' i.e. someone who believes in the absence ('a') of a God (theist believes in a God). An athiest believes that no God exists. Baptism is the ceremony (or Sacrament) which marks the joining of the Church. Though it is seen by some as the entry for membership of the organisation, in fact it has nothing to do with that, but is the time at which promises are made by the inidividual (adult) or on their behalf (infant) about their beliefs / how they want to live their life following Jesus Christ. Parents / Godparents / etc. make matching and supporting promises about how they will help raise the child if an infant. A Baptism is not a naming ceremony and has no legal significance relating to the name of the child. The Baptist Church is a branch of the Protestant Church partly distinguished by the fact that they will only baptise those old enough to make the decision for themselves. So they do not offer Infant Baptism, offering Dedication instead where adults can make promises to bring the child up in the Christian Faith. Godparents are a part of this process. Alt. words: Baptism Pool A part of the church building specifically set aside for baptism. In today's churches, the Baptists and some Anglicans practice full-immersion which requires a 'pool' for the baptism - this can be referred to as the baptism pool or baptistry. The Bible is the word used for the Holy Scriptures - the book used by the Church as the guide to how to live as a Christian, believed to be the Word of God. Senior church official who runs an area of churches known as a Diocese. Christening and Baptism are often used interchangeably, however technically the Christening is the service and the Baptism is the ceremony which happens within the service, (rather like a marriage takes place within a wedding service). Common usage would tend to use Christening for infants and perhaps more formal services - and Baptism for any age / less formal services. On this website, we tend to use Baptism as a slightly easier word to understand. Anyone who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, believes that He died for them on the cross, and that He is the Son of God. Generally a Christian will be a member of a Church (Roman Catholic / Protestant / Anglican / Baptist / methodist / Free Church / etc.) but Church membership doesn't make someone a Christian - it is a personal faith with God, not membership of an organisation. A group of people with the same (Christian) beliefs. Also the building in which they meet / worship. Alt. words: CofE The established or 'official' Church in England. A part of the Anglican / Protestant Church worldwide. The Church of England has church parishes covering the whole country. If you are not a member of any Church then it is most likely that if you were asked to be a Godparent, that it would be in the Church of England. Alt. words: Eucharist A Church service with bread and wine following on from the Last Supper in the Bible. It is unlikely to take place during the same service as an Infant Baptism, however it will be a big part of later services for the godchild - either at First Communion (Roman Catholic church), or after Confirmation (Anglican) - both services when the child proclaims their own personal faith. Adult Baptism in the Baptist church, or as a new member of another Church is likely to have communion as well. Declaring your own personal faith is seen as the main step before being allowed to take Communion. A ceremony where the baby is dedicated to God and welcomed into the Church, used where Infant Baptism is not practised. The Baptist Church is the main user of Dedication services, but there is also now a Dedication service available in the Anglican Church. Godparents are included in the service. All that is not of God. If God is the creator of all that is good, anything that does not come from God / comes from Satan is considered by Christians to be bad or evil. A key part of a Baptism is that those who are Parents and Godparents will make promises to God including renouncing Satan / the Devil and all that is Evil. Faith = belief. In the Christian context it refers to a belief in God, and the outcome of that belief - i.e. choosing to follow Jesus Christ and live as a Christian. It is the basis for a personal relationship with God. Most Churches will expect Godparents to have a personal faith - usually evidenced by being baptised themselves and being members of a Church. However, the requirements will vary from church to church. The formal first time when a child takes Communion at their Church. Predominantly a Roman Catholic practice it is set at the 'age of reason' or the point when a child is considered old enough to understand Communion. Currently this is set at 7 years old. For a Godparent supporting their godchild in their Christian faith, this is a major occasion. A piece of furniture containing a bowl of water which is used for the Baptism. In many churches this will be a fixed item of furniture in the church and people gather around for the Baptism. More recently and in more informal settings a simple bowl of water on a table may be used. Alt. words: Independent Church Generally sitting outside the organisational structure of one of the established Churches, a free church tends to be self-managing and able to set its own doctrine. Groups of free churches may have oversight from within that group. A method of Baptism where the baby, child or adult is fully submerged in water. babies may be immersed in a font, but for children or adults a pool or baptistry is required. There is also a practice where full immersion baptism can take place in rivers or lakes. The supreme being who created and rules the world. A Godparent is someone who has an adult role in a child's life. Originally a religious role to pray for and support the child in it's faith it has been adopted as a secular terma as well. Now often seen as a 'significant' adult in the child's life - someone who supports the parents in the child's upbringining. Every Godparent will have a slightly different role, generally defined by them and the parents jointly. The Godparent has a role in the Baptism service and will be asked to make declarations of a Christian nature in how they will support the child. A humanist version of a Godparent - recognising the same role in the child's life, and with a similar expectation of being there to help raise the child (giving them guidance) as humanists don't believe in God there is more value in a description of a 'guide' parent than a 'God' parent. Of God - anything that is from or of God is said to be Holy. One of the three forms of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). Seen in the bible as a dove who came down from heaven onto Jesus, and as tongues of fire on the disciples at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is the form of God present on earth once Jesus went back up to Heaven, present inside all those who follow Jesus (Christians). Someone who generally doesn't believe in or accept a God, but believes strongly in the value of good over evil and in the over-riding value of humans. Likely to have many of the same ethical and moral views as a Christian, but with no God central to their beliefs. Humanists may well have a naming ceremony where they appoint 'guide-parents' as a similar role to Godparents, but specifically excluding God. The practice of baptising an infant or child who doesn't make the decision for themselves. Promises are made by Parents and Godparents regarding how they will raise the child to develop their own faith. Some Churches do not believe in Infant Baptism, only accepting baptism at an age where the individual can make the decision themselves. Those churches may offer Dedication as an alternative service where similar promises can be made. Where infant baptism is a part of the Church, then First Communion (Roman Catholic) and Confirmation (Anglican) are services where the individual is older and can make the decision for themselves - at that point they confirm the promises made on their behalf as an infant. Alt. words: Christ | Jesus Jesus Christ - son of God who was born as a baby (celebrated at Christmas) and who preached to those around him, and who was then killed by the Romans on the cross. He died and three days later he rose again - having defeated Satan. He is now in Heaven where he reigns sitting at the right hand of God the father. Jesus is the core part of the Christian faith which a Godparent agrees to and in which they support their godchild. A branch of the Protestant Church (non Roman Catholics) founded by John Wesley Often a non-religious version of a baptism such as those performed by humanists who have 'guide parents' instead of Godparents. Some mainstream religions do have naming ceremonies such as Hinduism, however the mainstream Christian Church does not. Head of the Roman Catholic church Conversation with God. It can either be formal and structured (e.g. the Lord's Prayer, or prayers in Church) or it can be simply a conversation between an individual and God Alt. words: Catholic The Church based in Rome - whose head is the Pope. Members of the Church are also referred to as Catholics An outward sign of something special and holy. Roman Catholics, the Orthodox Church and Anglicans believe in Baptism, Eucahrist (Holy Communion), Confirmation, Holy Orders, Forgiveness of Sins, Annointing of the Sick and Marriage - though different churches will have their own emphasis. Alt. words: Devil Satan is the common Christian name for the Devil. Seen in the Bible as a fallen Angel who wished to challenge God. The source of all Evil, Jesus Christ battles Satan after dying on the cross, and wins - allowing those who believe in Jesus to be forgiven their sin and have a relationship with God. A key part of a Baptism is that those who are Parents and Godparents will make promises to God including renouncing Satan / the Devil and all that is Evil. Another word for Jesus Christ, used to recgonise that he saved people from tehir sins by dying on the cross. Anything that is not religious. While being a Godparent is generally accepted as a religious role (hence the word God in it), there is a strong secular use of the role. While this website acknowledges the Christian origins of the role, there is recognitionn of the secular use, and support for those in that position. The word Godparent does now have a secular and or religious meaning... Doing something wrong that separates you from God Sponsor is often used to mean Godparent - originally from the need for a sponsor to join the early Church (being rebels and underground. they needed to trust new members, so members were sponsored by a current member). Used more in the Roman Catholic Church than other Churches. It is also used within humanist ceremonies where it conveys the requirement without including God in the name. A Church of England service which is more low key than a Baptism. A service of thanksgiving is an opportunity to bring the child to God and thank Him for the child's life. It is not a Baptism, but for those who either prefer baptism to be for adults (some parts of the church), or who may be have a less strong faith and don't want to make certain promises to God, then this provides an opportunity to still hold a service to mark the birth of the child. In the Church of England this service is more flexible in terms of when it can be held, and it can be held privately. A believer in God / a God / many Gods. Monotheism is the belief in solely one God (Christianity / Judaism / Islam / etc.) Poly-theism is the belief in many Gods (Hinduism etc.) A phrase to describe the three parts of God - God the Father / God the Son (Jesus Christ) / God the Holy Spirit. Alt. words: Father | Minister | Parson | Pastor | Priest Person who runs the church, usually trained and appointed by the church. In the Roman Catholic church will be male, otherwise can be male or female. They will be the person authorised to carry out the baptism. Alt. words: Promises Promises made in front of God. The Baptism service will require the Parents and Godparents to make vows regarding their own faith and how they will support the child in it's faith. © . Privacy Policy Gives all details entered in the register: name, gender, date and place of birth. father's name (if given at time of registration), place of birth and occupation. mother's name, place of birth, maiden surname and, after 1984, occupation. Takedown request | View complete answer on manchester.gov.uk Do you have to put father's name on birth certificate UK? The mother can choose to register the birth without the child's father if they're not married or in a civil partnership. The father's details will not be included on the birth certificate. Takedown request | View complete answer on gov.uk What happens if I don't put father's name on birth certificate UK? In the case of a mother not putting father on birth certificate, the father does not have any rights over their child. Therefore, a father will need to either apply for parental responsibility or request to re-register before they obtain legal rights over their child. Takedown request | View complete answer on kabirfamilylaw.co.uk Are UK birth certificates public record? Under UK law, birth certificates are known as Public Records which means that any person can apply for a copy of any certificate, providing that they know the details of the birth that is required. Takedown request | View complete answer on vitalcertificates.co.uk Can a dad and his name to a birth certificate? The father's name can be added to the birth certificate at a date after the original registration. The registrar will help you do this but only if there's evidence that the father is the father, for example, a signed declaration by the mother. This is called re-registration. Takedown request | View complete answer on citizensadvice.org.uk 16 related questions found Full birth certificate Gives all details entered in the register: name, gender, date and place of birth. father's name (if given at time of registration), place of birth and occupation. mother's name, place of birth, maiden surname and, after 1984, occupation. Takedown request | View complete answer on manchester.gov.uk The historical birth and death index - births over 100 years old and deaths up to 1957 (those records that have been digitised) are available to search free of charge, via the GRO website at www.gov.uk/ bmdcertificates. You can also visit www.freebmd.org.uk which contains a transcription of the index from 1837 to 1983. Takedown request | View complete answer on gov.uk Once you have registered the birth, you'll be able to buy a short or full certificate for your baby. Both kinds cost £11. If you register the birth in the area where it took place, you'll get a certificate straight away. If you register the birth in another area, you'll get it in a few days. Takedown request | View complete answer on gov.uk Deliberately giving false details on a birth certificate is a criminal offence under the Perjury Act 1911 and is punishable by imprisonment. If however, a genuine mistake has been made, it is possible to seek an amendment to the register. Takedown request | View complete answer on trethowans.com The only recourse a victim of paternity fraud has is by raising the tort of deceit in Civil proceedings. The Court will not make an order for payment to allow a victim of paternity fraud to recover costs made that solely benefit a child (e.g., child maintenance) for reasons of public policy. Takedown request | View complete answer on smb.london The surname given to a child when its birth is registered in the UK is generally, but not always, that of the father. However it sometimes happens, especially in the case of persons born outside marriage, that the surnames of the parents, in any order, are used (hyphenated or not) to provide a double-barrelled surname. Takedown request | View complete answer on assets.publishing.service.gov.uk If the father is not present at the hospital following the birth, the mother will not be able to list him as the father on the birth certificate in his absence—the father and mother will instead have to sign the voluntary declaration of paternity at a later time, and have the father's name added to the birth ... Takedown request | View complete answer on nolo.com Your baby will normally be given your surname or the father's surname (even if you were not married to each other and the father does not attend with you). However, you may give the baby any surname including a combination of surnames. Takedown request | View complete answer on eastriding.gov.uk When registering the birth, you should know:place and date of the birth.name, surname and sex of the baby.parents' names, surnames and address.places and dates of parents' birth.date of parents' marriage or civil partnership.parents' jobs.mother's maiden surname. Takedown request | View complete answer on gov.uk You can add yourself to the