

DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Emergency Baptism Records

Recording of Emergency Baptism in a Hospital or Jail as written in the Handbook for Sacramental Records, revised February, 2010.

***Baptism outside
Parish Church***

When baptism is conferred solemnly (that is, with a priest or deacon celebrating the full rite of baptism) in a chapel, hospital or home (can. 877, §1 and 878), the minister is to see to it that the requisite data is transmitted in writing to the territorial parish in which the chapel, hospital or home is located for recording in the Baptismal Register.

When a Catholic baptism is conferred in an emergency situation, that is, in a non-parish facility such as a hospital or jail, ceremonies may be supplied at a later date. The baptism itself is to be recorded properly in the territorial parish of the hospital, jail or other facility. If the ceremonies are supplied at a later date (cf. 1973 Rite of Baptism for Children #31.3), a notation should be made in the margin of the baptismal entry of the territorial parish indicating the date and place the ceremonies were supplied.

After the conferral of the emergency baptism, the minister of baptism completes a Certificate of Emergency Baptism and gives it to the one who is baptized or, in the case of an infant, to the parents. The one baptized or the parents of the one baptized can then present this Certificate to the pastor of the parish in which he/she is a member so that the baptism can be noted in the baptismal register of that parish. The baptism itself will be recorded in the territorial parish where the baptism occurred. The Certificate will inform the baptized's pastor that the baptism occurred and was recorded in the territorial parish where the baptism occurred. In this way, should the one receiving baptism (or the parents) forget where the baptism is recorded, the parish in which he/she was registered or was a member can supply this information.

The minister of baptism, using the Diocesan Pastoral Services website, will notify Pastoral Services of the baptism, so that Pastoral Services can inform the territorial parish in which the hospital, jail or other facility is located so that the baptism can be so registered. If there are any questions concerning the completion of this notification via Pastoral Services website, please contact Pastoral Services.

The entry in the baptismal register of the territorial parish in which the emergency baptism occurred is the official entry for this sacrament. Certificates of baptism are to be issued only from this register.

Thus, all emergency baptisms in any facility conducted by any Catholic cleric or any lay minister, Catholic or non-Catholic, are to be recorded in the territorial parish in which they have occurred, but in order that these records may be located at a future time, the home parish of the person receiving baptism also, in some way, should annotate the receipt of baptism, when and where it occurred.

