

Child of Record Baptisms

Handbook 1: 16.3.1

Under the direction of the presiding authority, children who are members of record should be baptized and confirmed on or as soon after their 8th birthday as reasonable. These are children for whom Church membership records already exist (see [13.6.2](#)).

Handbook 2: 20.3.4

Baptismal services should be simple, brief, and spiritual. Normally, ward or stake leaders conduct monthly baptismal services for all 8-year-old children of record in the ward or stake. Members should not request special or individual times or prescribe the content of baptismal services.

People who may be invited to a baptismal service include family members, other relatives, friends, priesthood leaders, home teachers, visiting teachers, auxiliary officers and teachers who will be working with the new member, and investigators who are being taught. Other ward members may also attend.

Baptismal services should not be scheduled on Monday evenings.

Services That Involve Only One Ward

For Eight-Year-Old Children of Record. A member of the bishopric presides over baptismal services for 8-year-old children of record when the services involve only one ward.

A member of the bishopric oversees the planning of these baptismal services. He may conduct the services or assign the ward mission leader to conduct. Primary leaders may help plan the services under the direction of the bishopric.

Services That Involve More Than One Ward

For Eight-Year-Old Children of Record. A member of the stake presidency usually presides over baptismal services for 8-year-old children of record when the services involve more than one ward. However, the stake presidency may authorize a high councilor to preside. A member of the bishopric from each of the wards involved should attend.

The stake presidency may assign a high councilor to oversee the planning of the services and to conduct them. Primary leaders may help plan these services under the direction of the presiding officers.

20.3.5 - Use of the Font

Missionaries coordinate their use of a baptismal font with the agent bishop or with another person designated by the stake presidency. The schedule for using a font should permit missionaries to baptize once a week or more often, if necessary.

A responsible adult should be present while the baptismal font is filling and remain until it is empty and secured. The font should be drained and cleaned immediately after each baptismal service. Appropriate safety precautions should be taken whenever water is in the font.

When the font is not in use, all doors to it should be closed and locked.