

Policies for Submitting Names for Temple Work

Lesson Handout



What names may you submit for temple work?

Church members are responsible to provide temple ordinances for immediate family members and direct-line ancestors (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., and their families).

You may also submit names for the following individuals who have been deceased at least one year:

- Biological, adoptive, step, and foster family lines connected to your family.
- Collateral family lines (uncles, aunts, cousins, and their families).
- Your own descendants.
- Descendants of direct-line ancestors and their families.
- Possible ancestors. These are individuals who have a probable family relationship that cannot be verified because the records are inadequate. These may include individuals who had the same last name and resided in the same small geographic areas as known ancestors.

“I would invite you to read carefully in the sections in the Doctrine and Covenants that focus on this sacred responsibility. And the language that says that you are to perform these ordinances not for *the dead*, but for *your dead*.”

~Elder David A. Bednar

See Doctrine and Covenants sections 124, 127–128.

When do you need permission from the closest living relative?

The closest living relatives are, in this order:

- An undivorced spouse. (The spouse to whom the individual was married when he or she died.)
- An adult child.
- A parent.
- A brother or sister.

If you are one of the closest living relatives of a deceased person in need of ordinances, you do not need to obtain permission to submit the name.

If you are not one of the closest living relatives, you must obtain permission to submit the name of any individual born less than 110 years ago.



What names should you not submit for temple work?

Church members must not submit for proxy temple ordinances any names from unauthorized groups, such as:

- Celebrities.
- Jewish Holocaust victims.

If members violate this policy:

- They may forfeit their FamilySearch privileges.
- Other corrective action may also be taken.