

Norms for granting infirm status for members in First Promise in response to a temporary need.

Cf. 2016 Statutes section VIII.5

Permanent infirm status

Permanent infirm status is only for members who have made their Definitive Promise.

Temporary infirm status

If a member in First Promise is in a *temporary* medical situation, the local Council may grant infirm status. The person would continue to be a member of the community for the sake of the love and support the person needs from his or her Carmelite family.

The local Council needs to ensure that the temporary Promise is renewed before it expires. If it becomes apparent that the person is unlikely to return to formation, the local Council may either release the person from the Promise and from the Community or allow the Promise to expire and then remove the person from the Community roster.

Other options

- The local Council may choose to release such a member from First Promise rather than give temporary infirm status; **or**
- The local Council may choose to release the member from First Promise – even after granting infirm status – if it determines this would be in the best interests of the member and/or the Community.

Resuming formation

Before returning to the Community, the infirm member should be interviewed by the Council, who can then make the determination whether to readmit. If the decision is to readmit the member, once the person is well enough, the Council should assess what is the appropriate stage of formation for the person's reentry.

Recommendations

A local Council is expected to use its God-given common sense and good judgment. The Council should carefully discern the pros and cons of granting infirm status to a member in First Promise.

Release from the Promise and the Community may feel like a rejection when the member is emotionally vulnerable and in need of loving support. Alternatively, the member may feel relief from not having to fulfill the requirements of the vocation during the member's illness and recovery. The good of the Community, the good of the member, and realistic expectations are all to be taken into consideration.