

Readmissions Norms

First read Sections VIII and IX of the 2016 Statutes.

Definitively professed:

- If a person was released from the Order or was dismissed by a local Council, he or she may not return to the Order.
- If the person was never formally dismissed or released from the Promise, nor completed a transfer to another community, he or she is still a member of the community.
- If a member is returning from a Leave of Absence, particularly when there has been a vocational crisis, the local Council must interview the member and discern whether some supplemental formation is in order.

In First Promise (see Statutes VIII.9.a):

- If any local Council discerned that a person has no vocation, that person may not be readmitted by a subsequent Council, nor admitted by a Council of another community.
- If the person formally withdrew from formation, a Council may discern whether to readmit. A person may be released from First Promise and later readmitted **only once**.

Never made First Promise:

- If any local Council discerned that a person has no vocation, that person may not be readmitted by a subsequent Council, nor admitted by a Council of another community.
- If the person formally withdrew from formation, a local Council may discern whether to readmit.

If a person who is not professed wants to return, the Council should be very sure that the person understands the commitment. Readmission should not be allowed out of pity, but only if the Council honestly believes the person shows signs of a vocation and will contribute to the wellbeing of the community. Formation should begin anew; the person should not be fast-tracked through the formation process.

If the person simply dropped out, the Council should discern very carefully whether to readmit. Walking away without explanation is a strong indicator that the person is *not* suited to the OCDS vocation, especially community life.

Further considerations/recommendations

If a **definitively professed** member has been out of contact with the community for an extended period and has not been on Leave of Absence or otherwise excused by the local Council, the Council should explore two primary questions with the member who is requesting to return to community:

- What kept you away?
- What is bringing you back?

This statement supersedes all previous statements on OCDS Readmission.

The online document is the only one to be considered official.

December 2022

The council should explore what role the council and what role the member had in the lack of communication with each other. (Was the community negligent?)

Some re-integration would be appropriate, depending on how long and why the member has been away.

A definitively professed member may be asked by the Council to repeat some, or all of the formation normally used to prepare for the First Promise and the Definitive Promise. Remedial formation on community life, the Promise, and OCDS Legislation may be especially valuable.