



OCDS Member Status Guide

Oklahoma Semi-Province of St. Therese

	Infirm	Isolate	Extended Excused Absence	Leave of Absence (LOA)
Conditions	Member is unable to fulfill OCDS responsibilities due to chronic illness, frailty or diminishing capacity.	Member is unable to attend meetings due to excessive distance. Is able to fulfill all other OCDS responsibilities.	Member must miss meetings for serious, involuntary reasons. Is able to fulfill other OCDS responsibilities.	Member needs time away from OCDS responsibilities for personal reasons.
Members	First (temporarily infirm only) or Definitive Promise.	First or Definitive Promise	Definitive Promise	Definitive Promise
Who Decides	Local Council	Local Council	Member requests: local Council may approve or may offer LOA instead.	Member makes request. Local Council should approve.
Prayer Life	OCDS prayer life as able.	Normal OCDS prayer life.	OCDS prayer life as able.	Released from all.
Formation Studies	As able.	Yes, as part of monthly contact.	To be determined by Council.	Released from all.
Attendance	As able. It would be charitable for other members to help with transportation.	At least once a year if possible.	As able.	May attend events that are open to guests. May not attend meetings/retreats until LOA is over.
Community Dues and Provincial Assessment	Responsible for community dues unless exempted by the Council. Provincial assessment applies. If member can no longer attend meetings, PC waiver is an option. Consider using community funds to contribute full or partial amount for assessment.	Responsible to pay community dues. Provincial assessment applies.	Responsible to pay community dues unless exempted. Provincial assessment applies.	Exempt from community dues. Provincial assessment does not apply.
Community Contact	Council is responsible to contact at least monthly. May be delegated. Regular in-person contact is encouraged.	At least monthly. Member and Council are mutually responsible to maintain contact. May be delegated.	Monthly, or as determined by the local Council. Member and Council are mutually responsible to maintain contact.	Regular contact to see how the member is doing is allowed. Member and Council decides this together.
Time Period	Permanent or temporary. Ends when the member is again able to attend meetings regularly.	Permanent or temporary. Ends if the member transfers to a closer community. Ends if the member moves back into the area.	Temporary. To be reevaluated by the local Council every 6-12 months until the situation resolves.	Temporary, up to one year. May be ended at member's request. May be extended two additional years. Further extension only with approval of the Provincial Council.
Examples (List is not all inclusive)	Old age, dementia, chronic illness, surgery and recovery, serious accident.	Not a set distance. Council may also take transportation and road conditions into account.	Primary caregiver for seriously infirm family member; involuntary change in work schedule; military deployment. May be granted for mission work after consulting the Provincial Delegate.	Vocational crisis; emotional crisis. Member feels the need to be distanced from the community temporarily.