

Using the “OCDS” designation

“OCDS” may be added after a member’s name when the member has made First Promise. It is not used before making the Promise. If a person discontinues initial formation or leaves the Order, the OCDS designation is dropped.

In print or online

To the general public:

Using “OCDS” after a member’s name makes the person the face of the Order. For this reason, OCDS should not be used when expressing personal opinions in public forums.

Books and articles on non-Carmelite themes:

For example, writings promoting private revelations should not be signed “OCDS.”

Books teaching Christian themes:

These should be sent to the *censor librorum* at the local diocesan chancery office for the Nihil Obstat and the Bishop’s Imprimatur. Books and articles for publication outside of Carmelite venues may be signed OCDS, if the member first has the local Council and Spiritual Assistant review them for tone and accuracy. It is important that the document is theologically sound and correctly reflects Carmelite attitudes and teachings.

Members who do not want to wait for approval are free to publish under their own name without the “OCDS” designation.

This is not to interfere with free expression but to protect the Order from misunderstanding.

Personal Apostolates, Speaking Engagements, Book Sales, Etc.

Events sponsored by an OCDS community:

Notices should state that the community is one of Discalced Carmelite Seculars, and OCDS speakers’ names may be printed with OCDS after them.

Personal Apostolates:

Some Carmelite Seculars have personal apostolates, but even if they are teaching about Carmelite topics, any advertising used would not normally include the OCDS designation, as this is an endeavor by the individual and not by the OCDS community of which they are a member. However, the person may talk about his experience in Carmel and inform attendees that the speaker is a Carmelite Secular.

This statement supersedes all previous statements on OCDS Using the OCDS designation.

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

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Persons not actively affiliated with an OCDS community may not use “OCDS” as a selling point for speaking engagements, book sales, or other activities.

Other than as permitted above, an individual should not use the OCDS designation. Its inclusion as part of one’s signature outside the confines of the Order implies the individual publicly represents the Secular Order.