

Initiation Process

1. Devotees should:
 - a. Read the Initiation Standards document to educate themselves about the requirements (essential standards) for first or second initiation
 - b. Identify an approved mentor (a list of mentors would be provided separately) and approach the mentor to begin the mentorship process.
2. The mentor registers the mentee through an email to iskconhbg@gmail.com with the following information
 - a. Legal name and, if applicable, spiritual name
 - b. Contact telephone no. and email address
 - c. Whether the devotee is desiring first or second initiation
 - d. Name of the Sanga/Bhakti Vriksha>Nama Hatta leader
 - e. Name of the mentor
 - f. Name of the spiritual master the candidate is aspiring for initiation from (if known)
3. The aspiring candidate should begin the monitoring process by filling out monthly progress tracker and sharing it monthly with the mentor (available from mentor). If ready (After completing the prescribed minimum wait period and satisfying the criteria as per the mentor appraisal form, discuss their readiness with their mentor to obtain agreement.
4. The mentor will contact the Temple president with all the appropriate information on the candidate and offer their honest evaluation on candidate's readiness along with their strengths and weaknesses.
5. The Temple president will review the candidate for suitability for initiation based on the information provided by the candidate's mentor.
6. The Temple president will interview the candidate's mentor and carefully assess and confirm that the candidate has met all the requirements pertaining to all the local standard requirements.
7. If necessary, the Temple president will meet with the candidate.
8. The Temple president will share the assessment results of a candidate with all its members (notes will be taken during any interviews/discussion with mentors or candidates) in order to reach a consensus on the candidate's suitability.
9. The Temple President will either write a letter of recommendation to the initiating spiritual master (cc mentor) within two weeks of receipt of the request, or provide reasons why a recommendation cannot be provided at this time.
10. If either the mentor or the candidate disagrees with the reasons provided by the Temple President for not recommending the candidate they can take their concerns directly with the Temple President.