

GUIDANCE FOR PROPOSER AND SECONDER OF A CANDIDATE FOR INITIATION

- (1) Yours is a heavy responsibility. The good name of your Lodge - and the Craft depends on the reputation of its members. Every care should therefore be taken to ensure that a candidate's background is well known and that he is a fit and proper person to be made a Mason.
- (2) Your attention is drawn to the Book of Constitutions, Rules 157 to 166 and also the duties contained in Rule 179, the Summary of Ancient Charges particularly paragraph 14, and Aims and Relationships of the Craft, particularly paragraph 5. You should also acquaint yourself with Part B of this paper consisting of a copy of the Declaration a candidate is required to make on the Registration Form and an explanation of it.
- (3) A candidate may well be the son of a member of your Lodge and already well known to you. On the other hand he may only be a business or a social acquaintance.
- (4) In either case he may have little or no previous knowledge of Freemasonry except that derived from the popular press and uninformed comment. You should therefore invite him to read the leaflets 'What is Freemasonry', 'Freemasonry & Religion', and 'Freemasonry and Society' and possibly to view Grand Lodge's Videos. You must also hand him Part B of this paper.
- (5) It has long been standard practice for a proposer to point out to a candidate the financial obligations required of a Freemason and the need to consider these and the calls Freemasonry may make on his time in the light of his family and other commitments. It is also prudent to draw his attention to the suspicions some people have of Freemasonry and therefore the greater need for members of the Craft to maintain the highest standards of behaviour.
- (6) Overleaf is a list of questions to be answered by the proposer and seconder on the Registration Form A. A failure to answer any of the questions truthfully, may render you liable to Masonic disciplinary sanction. The answers should be considered by the Lodge Committee, and may subsequently be filed by the Lodge Secretary with the Candidate's declaration. If the candidate is unable to make an unqualified Declaration, you must tell the Lodge Secretary, giving him full details, so that he may obtain guidance from Grand Secretary (though the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary of appropriate). You should carefully explain to the candidate the reasons for the process.

Name of Candidate

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY THE
PROPOSER AND SECONDER

	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
1. How long have you known the Candidate?
2. To the best of your knowledge and belief, are his answers to question 5 on the Registration Form true?
3. Do you meet him often?
4. Where do you meet him?		
(a) In your home?
(b) In his home?
(c) At work?
(d) Socially?
(e) Elsewhere (give details)?
5. Would you welcome him into your home?
6. Do you vouch for him in every respect as a suitable and desirable person for admission to the Craft?
7. (a) Would his home or business circumstances make it difficult for him to attend regularly at Lodge meetings?
(b) Do you accept the responsibility of encouraging him to make his membership effective?
8. Have you informed him of:		
(a) his financial obligations to the Lodge and
(b) the calls that may be made on his time?
9. What reason have you for thinking Freemasonry will interest him?

Proposer

.....

Seconder

.....

TO ALL CANDIDATES FOR INITIATION INTO A LODGE UNDER THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

On the reverse of this document is a copy of a section of the Registration Form which you will have to complete before your application for membership of a Lodge under The United Grand Lodge of England can be considered. If your answer to any of the questions is untrue, or becomes untrue before you are made a Mason and you fail to disclose the fact, you may, as a member of the Craft, be liable to Masonic disciplinary sanction.

You may feel that the requirement to divulge all convictions* by a Court is unreasonably searching and that minor motoring offences, for example, could be ignored.

Certainly isolated cases of speeding or illegal parking would not be a bar to membership and there are other minor infringements of the law which fall into this category, but rather than establish a catalogue of exemptions it has been decided to ask for a full and frank disclosure of all offences. If these are of a minor nature or resulted from youthful indiscretion they are likely to be ignored. And if the offence was of a more serious nature but was committed some time ago and there is evidence that you are now of good character and an exemplary citizen, it will not necessarily be held against you.

It is in your interests as well as in the interests of the Lodge which you are applying to join that no-one is accepted whose past conduct indicates that he cannot be relied upon to live up to the high standards expected of a Mason.

Your Proposer and Secunder would not be putting you forward if they did not believe that you were a suitable person to become a Mason. They will give you advice if you cannot make the Declaration required in the Registration Form.

* You are not obliged to disclose convictions which are 'spent' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Have you ever been proposed for membership in any Lodge, or has your admission to any Lodge ever been sought either by yourself or by anyone on your behalf ? **YES / NO**

Give the name and number of any or every such Lodge:

I wish to become a Candidate for initiation in and membership of the Lodge first named overleaf and I declare that:-

1. My application is entirely voluntary.
2. I understand that my duties as a Freemason would include an overriding duty to obey the laws of any country to which I may be subject.
3. I do not expect, anticipate or seek preferment or financial benefit as a consequence of my being a member of the Craft.
4. I understand that I may freely declare my membership of the Order on any occasion when I can be seen not thereby to be pursuing any business, professional or personal advantage.
5.
 - a. I have never been convicted by a Court of any offence
 - b. I have never been the subject of a finding of dishonest or disgraceful conduct
 - c. I have never been disciplined by any professional, trade or other tribunal
 - d. I am not awaiting the outcome of proceedings against me before a criminal court or a professional, trade or other tribunal
 - e. I am not, to the best of my knowledge, the subject of any criminal, professional, trade or other investigation.
6. I am not and have not been in any way connected with any organisation which is quasi- Masonic, imitative of Masonry, or regarded by the Grand Lodge as irregular or as incompatible with the Craft.
7. I undertake that if any paragraph in this declaration should become untrue or misleading at any time before I am made a Mason, I will inform my proposer and seconder without delay, and agree that by presenting myself at the meeting at which I am to be made a Mason I shall represent that this declaration remains true.

† IF THE CANDIDATE CANNOT MAKE THIS DECLARATION WITHOUT QUALIFICATION, OR IN ANY DOUBT AS TO THE SCOPE OF THIS PARAGRAPH HE MUST CONSULT HIS PROPOSER AND SECONDER BEFORE SIGNING THIS FORM OR OTHERWISE CONTINUING WITH HIS APPLICATION. PARAGRAPH 5 MUST BE AMENDED BY DELETING ANY SUB-PARAGRAPH TO WHICH THE CANDIDATE CANNOT SUBSCRIBE. FULL DETAILS OF ANY CONVICTIONS OR ANY SUCH PROCEEDINGS MUST BE DISCLOSED TO HIS PROPOSER, SECONDER AND SECRETARY OF THE LODGE. THE CERTIFICATE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY CONFIRMING THAT THE MATTERS DISCLOSED DO NOT CONSTITUTE A BAR TO INITIATION MUST THEN BE OBTAINED BEFORE THE CANDIDATE MAY BE PROPOSED IN OPEN LODGE. IF AT ANY TIME BEFORE INITIATION THIS DECLARATION BECOMES UNTRUE OR MISLEADING, A FURTHER CERTIFICATE MUST BE OBTAINED.

‡ MEMBERSHIP OF A RECOGNISED REGISTERED FRIENDLY SOCIETY DOES NOT COME WITHIN THIS CATEGORY