

(To be read by the petitioner before signing the attached petition, and to be detached and retained by him.)

To the Subscriber of the Attached Petition for the Degrees in Freemasonry

As the exact nature of the institution of Freemasonry is unknown to you, it is deemed advisable that before signing the attached petition you should be informed on certain features and phases of that institution which may affect your decision to apply for membership therein.

Freemasonry has in all ages required that men should come to its doors entirely of their own free will; not as the result of importunity nor from feelings of curiosity; but from a favorable opinion of the institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to their fellow creatures.

Masonry is a system of morality based on the belief in the existence of God, the mortality of the soul, and the brotherhood of men; therefore no atheist can be made a Mason. It strives to teach a man the duty he owes to God, to his country, to his family, to his neighbor, and to himself. It inculcates the practice of every virtue and makes an extensive use of symbolism in its teachings. It interferes with neither religion nor politics, but strives only after light and truth, endeavoring always to bring out the highest and noblest qualities of men.

It should be clearly borne in mind that Freemasonry is not to be entered in the hope of personal gain or advancement. Admission must not be sought from mercenary or unworthy motives. Anyone so actuated will be bitterly disappointed. The aim of the true Freemason is to cultivate a brotherly feeling among men, and to help the distressed and afflicted to the extent of his ability.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that Freemasonry is not a benefit society, although the practice of charity is a fundamental virtue taught in Freemasonry. We do not pay so much a year to entitle us to draw sick pay, or other benefits, or to make provision for those we leave behind. There are other excellent societies founded for this purpose.

Loyalty to one's country is an essential qualification in Freemasonry, and those only are acceptable who cheerfully conform to every lawful authority. Disloyalty in any form is abhorrent to the teachings of Freemasonry and is regarded as a serious Masonic offense. Freemasonry is not contrary to the beliefs of any man of upright heart and mind, and has in it nothing inconsistent with his civil, moral or religious duties.

The handwritten portion of this Petition shall be in the Handwriting of the Petitioner—Code 290

## PETITION FOR DEGREES

TO THE MASTER, WARDENS, AND BRETHREN OF \_\_\_\_\_ LODGE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ being of the full age of eighteen years, do acknowledge my belief in God, and do declare that, unbiased by improper solicitation, and uninfluenced by mercenary or toher unworthy motives, I freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to my fellow creatures; that I am possessed of sufficient means to enable me to meet the charges of my admission and the support of my membership in the craft without detriment to my family; and that I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient usages and established customs of the fraternity. \_\_\_\_\_

Sign All Given Names in Full

We, the undersigned members of this lodge, certify that we are personally acquainted with Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ for the length of time specified before our respective signatures. And that we have confidence in his integrity and respect his intentions and we cheerfully recommend him as a fit and proper candidate for Massonry; also that our acquaintance with the petitioner has been of such character as to give us ample knowledge of his life, morals, conduct and general reputation and standing in the community in which he resides, and that upon acting upon this knowledge we sign this recommendation.

I have known the petitioner \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months \_\_\_\_\_

I have known the petitioner \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months \_\_\_\_\_

I have known the petitioner \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions to be Answered by the Petitioner

Answers to the following questions but be in the Petitioner's own handwriting

What is your name? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_ years. Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

Where were you born? \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (County) (State or Country)

Where do you reside? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (ZIP)

What is your business Address? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (ZIP)

What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_  
Designate specifically and in detail, both with relation to yourself and to your employer if any.

By whom are you employed? \_\_\_\_\_ What is your employer's business? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you resided in the state of Illinois continuously for the six months last past? \_\_\_\_\_

Where have you resided for the six months last past? \_\_\_\_\_

Where have you resided for the ten years last past? \_\_\_\_\_ If in more than one place, state the particular years in each place.

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever previously petitioned any lodge for the degrees in Masonry? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out and sign the following statement regarding last petition:

On or about, \_\_\_\_\_ I petitioned \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge

No. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_

and was \_\_\_\_\_. State definitely whether elected or rejected, and what disposition was made of your petition.

Record of other petitions \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any organization, the regulations of which are incompatible with membership in the Masonic Fraternity? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, specify. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know of any moral, mental, physical, or legal reason why you should not become a Freemason? \_\_\_\_\_

I have read all the quetions contained in the foregoing petition, and all the answers thereto are in my own handwriting.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

Res. Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sign all names in full

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
**PETITION FOR DEGREES**  
of

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*Received at stated meeting of Lodge held*

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**Referred to**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Committee*

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**REPORT**

*Due* \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

*Action had* \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

*Result* \_\_\_\_\_

***Record of degree dates***

*Initiated* \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

*Passed* \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

*Raised* \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

*Page* \_\_\_\_\_ *of Records*

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**NOTE**—this Petition must be filed and preserved in the archives of the lodge for reference.