

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

To the Master, Wardens and Members of _____ Florida this _____ day of _____, 19____, F. & A.M.: Lodge No. _____

Having conceived a favorable opinion of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, and a sincere desire of being serviceable to my fellow creatures, unbiased by friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, I do freely and voluntarily offer myself as a candidate for initiation into the mysteries of your time-honored institution, and if elected, will cheerfully conform to all of the ancient and established usages and customs of the Fraternity, which I understand are based on the highest principles and moral precepts and incorporate no unseemly conduct.

(The Petitioner will answer each of the following questions fully - print or type, except signature:)

Do you believe in the existence of one ever-living and true God? _____

What is your full name? _____

Where do you reside? _____

House No. & Street _____

Indicate Post Office Box or Mailing Address if other than your residence

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

How long resided there? _____

How long resided in State of Florida? _____

Where have you resided during the past five years? _____

What is your present occupation? _____

How long? _____

What is your business address: _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

By whom and where employed in the past five years? _____

S.S. No. _____

Where were you born? _____

(TOWN OR CITY)

(STATE)

Date of your birth: _____ day of _____

A.D. 19____ Age _____

Do you know of any physical, mental, legal or moral reason which would prevent you from becoming a Freemason? _____

If yes, explain _____

Have you ever pleaded guilty, or been convicted of any crime? _____ If so, give details of when and where? _____

Wife's name _____

Are you married? _____ How many dependents? _____ Give sex and age of your children. _____

Have you previously applied for, or been proposed, as a candidate for the Degrees in a Masonic Lodge? _____

If so, when and in what Lodge? _____

What were the results? (explain fully) _____

Do you believe, or have you ever believed in the overthrow of the government of the United States of America by force or infiltration, or been a member of an organization who advocates the same? Yes No (If yes, give names and dates) _____

Have you ever been a member of the Order of DeMolay? _____ What Chapter? _____

Offices held _____

Would you be interested in serving with one or more of our youth organizations? _____

FACTS CONCERNING FREEMASONRY
PETITIONER MUST READ THE FOLLOWING

Having expressed a desire to become a Freemason, we presume you are willing to consider thoroughly the step you propose to take. The exact nature of our Institution being unknown to you, we deem it advisable that you should be informed on certain points, the knowledge of which may affect your decision to apply for membership.

Freemasonry interferes neither with religion nor politics, but has for its foundation the great basic principles of The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. No atheist can be a Freemason. Freemasonry strives to teach a man the duty he owes to God, his neighbor and himself. It includes the practice of virtue, and makes an extensive use of Symbolism in its teachings.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that Freemasonry is not to be entered in the hope of personal gain or advancement. Admission thereto must not be sought from mercenary or other unworthy motives. The aim of the true Freemason is to cultivate a brotherly feeling among men, and to help whomever he can.

Freemasonry is not a Benefit Society. This fact cannot be too strongly emphasized. We do not subscribe so much a year to entitle us to draw sick pay or other benefits, or to make provisions for those who survive us. However, each Mason is expected to provide for the future of his family. No man should enter the ranks of Freemasonry in hope or expectation that he will derive any financial benefit from it; Masonic Charity is directed towards those who, from unforeseen circumstances and through no fault of their own, have met with misfortune. To be eligible for resident, non-resident or other relief programs a Florida Mason must have been a member in good standing of a Florida Lodge for not less than 10 years, the last 3 years whereof must have been continuous at the time application is made and he would not be eligible for such relief if he had already attained the age sixty (60) years at the time he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Loyalty to one's country is an essential qualification in Freemasonry, and only those are acceptable who cheerfully render obedience to every lawful authority. Disloyalty in any form is abhorrent to a Freemason, and is regarded as a serious Masonic offense.

Freemasonry has in all ages insisted that men should come to its doors entirely of their own free will, and not as a result of solicitations, or from feelings of curiosity, but simply from a favorable opinion of the Institution, and a desire to be ranked among its members.

We have no authority at present to give you further information regarding the Fraternity you propose to join, but we have imparted sufficient information to enable you to conclude that Freemasonry is not contrary to the principles which mark a man of upright heart and mind, and has in it nothing inconsistent with one's civil, moral or religious duties.

We think it advisable to inform you that your admission to our Craft will entail certain financial obligations which you should be able to discharge without detriment to yourself or those dependent on you. In addition to the fees payable on your entrance, there will be annual dues for the support of your Lodge.

Before presenting this petition be sure in your heart that you are not prompted by mere curiosity, the desire for commercial gain or social prestige. For such motives Freemasonry has no reward.

(OVER)