

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

DISPENSATIONS

Applicability and Responsibility

This document is applicable to all Constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut.

Responsibility for maintaining this document rests with the Committee on Masonic Education, and with the approval of the Grand Master.

References

Grand Lodge of Connecticut Constitution, Masonic Law, Practice, Rules and Regulations:

- Section 2107 g. Grand Master may grant dispensation for formation of new Lodge
- Section 2107 l. Dispensation for elections
- Section 2107 k. Dispensation for installation of Master who is not a past Warden
- Section 2107 l. Dispensation to shorten time.
- Section 2107 p. Dispensation to permit more than five persons to receive a degree
- Section 3800 Dispensation Defined
- Section 3801 Expiration of Dispensation
&Section 3906
- Section 3901 Dispensation for Formation of a Lodge
- Section 3902 Conditions for Granting a Dispensation for Formation of Lodge

Discussion

Dispensations provide official permission to do something which might otherwise be prohibited.

Dispensations, General

The Grand Master, must grant all dispensations. In all cases, the dispensation request must be made to the District Deputy who will inform the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master of the particulars of the dispensation request and his recommendation. The Grand Master will inform the District Deputy and Deputy Grand Master of his approval/disapproval and, if appropriate direct the Grand Lodge office that a written disposition be issued to the lodge with copies to the District Deputy. Dispensations are issued in writing under signature of the Grand Master, thus application should be made at least two weeks in advance of need.

No dispensation may extend beyond the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, when it will either expire or be renewed by the new Grand Master.

There are two types of dispensations:

- 1) Dispensation to deviate from Bylaws or other Rules
- 2) Dispensation to form a Lodge

Dispensation to Deviate from Bylaws or Other Rules

A dispensation could be required for any of the following circumstances:

- To appear in public in Masonic dress (aprons and jewels), such as for a parade, except that If the parade or procession is a Lodge function and you are parading to a church or other place of worship for religious services (e.g. St. John's Day celebration), a dispensation is not needed.
- To hold a special election to fill a vacancy in office, or to hold the Annual Meeting of the Lodge on other than the day specified in the Bylaws.
- To travel to an out of state Lodge to confer Connecticut ritual, also to confer a degree in Connecticut in any language other than English.
- To permit the conferral on a Connecticut candidate of a degree using other than approved Connecticut ritual (such as by an out of state degree team).
- To confer the degrees in less than the required waiting period, or to confer a degree on more than five candidates simultaneously.
- To permit a brother who has not previously served as a Warden to be installed as Master.
- To hold a Communication at a time or place which is not in accordance with the bylaws of the Lodge.
- To move the Charter of the Lodge to another location for the purpose of holding a Communication.

Dispensation for Form a Lodge

A dispensation to form a new Lodge must be requested in writing by at least seven members, must state the reason for the request, must be accompanied by approval of the nearest Lodge, evidence that the petitioners are in good standing in a Lodge, and include nomination of the Master and Wardens.