

# THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

### **AFFILIATION WITH A LODGE**

#### **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 Grand Secretary, and with the approval of the Grand Master.

#### **References**

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

Subpart 43            Affiliation

#### **Discussion**

Any member in good standing in a Lodge which is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut may petition to affiliate, i.e. become a member of any Connecticut Lodge, as long as the Grand Jurisdiction of which his present Lodge is a constituent permits dual or plural membership. A non-affiliated Mason in good standing (in possession of a dimit from a Lodge other than the one in which membership is sought) is not only permitted to affiliate with a Lodge, but has a duty to do so.

Appendix A contains the "Petition for Affiliation" form to be used to initiate the process.

If the brother seeking to affiliate with a Lodge had previously obtained a dimit from that same Lodge, the procedure is different. The brother must make a written request for reinstatement to the Lodge, accompanied by payment of the current year dues and assessments. No Committee on Investigation will be assigned. The Lodge holds the request until the next stated communication, at which time a simple majority vote of those present is all that is required.

#### **Procedure for Affiliating with a Lodge**

##### **Petition for Affiliation**

The form contained in Appendix A must be completed and delivered to the Lodge. The petitioner must decide which of the three options he desires: 1) to become a member and relinquish his previous Lodge membership; 2) to surrender a dimit to become a member;

or 3) to become a dual or plural member of the new Lodge. If it is his intent to transfer his membership from his previous Lodge to the Lodge petitioned, he must complete and sign the “Application for Dimit” section of the form.

The Petition for Affiliation must be signed by two Master Masons; a Recommender who must be a member of the Lodge petitioned, and an Avoucher who must be a member in good standing in a Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

### Investigation

Upon being read in the Lodge, the petition will be referred to a Committee on Investigation consisting of a minimum of three members, whose duty it is to conduct such inquiry as they may deem necessary. As the petitioner is already a Mason, the committee does not enquire into the suitability of the petitioner to become a Mason, only to become a member of the Lodge. This will usually include an interview with the applicant, preferably in his home.

Upon completion, the Committee on Investigation will make its report at a subsequent meeting of the Lodge, recommending either “favorable” or “unfavorable”, without any discussion of details.

### Ballot

After the report of the Committee on Investigation, the Lodge will proceed to ballot on the application. This is done in the same manner as for a new candidate, using a ballot box containing white balls (positive votes) and black cubes (negative votes). The box is passed to each member of the Lodge who is present, and each casts his vote in secret. A unanimous vote in the affirmative is required. The box is then examined by the three principal officers of the Lodge. If there are no negative ballots in the box, the petitioner is declared elected. and, unless a dimit is to be requested from his previous Lodge, may immediately “sign the bylaws” to enroll himself as a member of the Lodge.

Should there be any negative ballots, the petitioner must be notified, and may renew his petition as often as he may desire. His previous standing as a Mason is not affected. As with a ballot on a new candidate, it is a Masonic offense for any member of the Lodge to disclose how he or any other brother voted.

### Notification of Previous Lodge

Except for a non-affiliated brother who has simply regained membership in a Lodge, the Secretary of the new Lodge must complete as appropriate the “Notice of Election to Membership” portion of the form and 1) send it to the applicant’s previous Connecticut Lodge, or 2), to the Connecticut Grand Lodge office if the previous Lodge is in another Grand Jurisdiction to enable securing the Brother’s full Masonic record from the other Grand Lodge. This will enable the previous Lodge to either issue a dimit if requested or to note on its records the additional membership of the brother. Upon receipt of the dimit, the new member should “sign the bylaws” thus completing his transfer of membership.

### **Appendix A**

Petition for Affiliation. The petition form is a two sided form, thus pages 1 and 2 should be printed on one sheet of paper using both sides. The third page is for use only when the Brother is requesting a dimit or to notify his other Lodges of his membership status.

# Petition for Affiliation

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut

**To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, A. F. & A. M. \_\_\_\_\_, Connecticut.

The undersigned, being a Master Mason in good standing, hereby applies for affiliation with your Lodge. He fraternally states that he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice (date) \_\_\_\_\_;

passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft (date) \_\_\_\_\_; and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason (date) \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, Grand Jurisdiction of \_\_\_\_\_, since which time he has been a member, successively of

\_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_,

and

**(Use Appropriate paragraph below)**

\* that he is now a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_, and if his application is favorably acted upon by you, **he further promises** that he will enroll himself a member of your Lodge by furnishing a DIMIT and by signing its By-Laws within six months after receiving written notice of his acceptance. The Application for Dimit below has been completed and signed.

\*\* that he was last a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_, and attaches his DIMIT therefrom, dated \_\_\_\_\_, to this petition; and, if his petition is favorably acted upon by you, **he further promises** that he will enroll himself a member of your Lodge by signing its By-Laws within six months after receiving written notice of his acceptance.

\*\*\* that he is now a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_, and desires to be received into DUAL MEMBERSHIP, retaining membership in the above Lodge; said Lodge being under a Grand Jurisdiction which permits Dual Membership; and if his petition is favorably acted upon by you, **he further promises** that he will enroll himself a member of your Lodge by signing its By-Laws within six months after receiving written notice of his acceptance. (Connecticut permits Dual membership and Plural Membership)

**Print name in full:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last Suffix

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code & Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate's Mailing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I was born at \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
Town County State Date

My occupation is \_\_\_\_\_. I am employed at \_\_\_\_\_.

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last Maiden

Have you heretofore made application for affiliation with any Masonic Lodge, which application remains unacted upon? \_\_\_\_\_ What Lodge? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been rejected upon your application for affiliation by any Lodge? If so, state name and location of Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been expelled, suspended or stricken from the roll of any Lodge? If so, state Lodge, reason and approximate date \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name, No Initials

\_\_\_\_\_ Recommender \_\_\_\_\_ Avoucher

*(This petition must be retained as a permanent record of the Lodge, with the Dimit, when received, attached to it.)*

PETITION OF

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_

FOR

**Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

Received \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
and referred to committee consisting of Brothers:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

who, after making a thorough investigation, beg leave to  
report \_\_\_\_\_ favorably

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Balloted upon \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

and applicant was elected/ rejected \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant notified \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

By-Laws signed \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
consumating membership.

Lodge which issued dimiti or in which dual membership is  
held notified on \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION FOR DIMIT**

To be signed by the petitioner when he signs the petition, *unless* he desires to hold DUAL MEMBERSHIP, or has attached a Dimit to his petition.

**To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned fraternally represents that he is a member in good standing of the above Lodge, owes no dues or assessments to the end of the current Lodge year, and is not under charges of unmasonic conduct nor under Masonic censure; that he has petitioned \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_, for affiliation; and, if he be elected, requests that you forward a Dimit terminating his membership in your Lodge *directly to the Secretary* of the Lodge petitioned, upon his request.

Fraternally yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sign name in full as on the petition.)

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

**MAIL AFTER PETITIONER HAS BEEN ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP**  
(To be mailed promptly after petitioner has been elected)

**To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_:

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_, Brother \_\_\_\_\_  
was elected to membership in our Lodge.

*(Check the following section that applies in this case)*

\_\_\_\_\_ You are requested to issue his Dimit and mail it to the address below to complete the transfer of his membership. His signed request is on the reverse side of this stub.

\_\_\_\_\_ We return to you the stub from the Dimit you issued to him on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ He desires to hold membership in both Lodges. This is a notice of his election as a Dual Member in our Lodge for you to enter in your records. Please send us a copy of his complete Masonic record in your Lodge.

Fraternally yours,

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary