

# A LETTER TO THE PETITIONER

*(To be handed to the petitioner with a blank petition)*

Dear Sir:

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 initiation 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, to his neighbor and to 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 into in the hope of personal gain or advancement. Admission thereto must not be sought for mercenary or other unworthy motives. Any one so actuated will be bitterly disappointed. 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 contribute any amount to entitle us to draw back pay or benefits, or to make provision for those who survive us. There are other excellent Societies founded for this purpose. 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.

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 offence.

Freemasonry has, in all ages, insisted that men should come to its doors entirely of their own free will. 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 think it advisable to inform you that 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 and possibly other assessments for the support of the Lodge. From time to time, you may be called upon to contribute for the relief work connected with the Craft.

We have no authority at the present time to give you further information regarding the Brotherhood you wish to join. We have provided sufficient information to enable to conclude that Freemasonry is not contrary to the principles which mark a man of upright heart and mind and is not inconsistent with one's civil, moral or religious duties.

Knowing that a man's family is interested in any step taken that may affect their social connections and feeling that they, too, should have a clear understanding of the nature of the Fraternity, we should urge you to show this letter to them and discuss it with them, before submitting your petition.

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of New Mexico

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The petitioner is urged to consult with some Freemasons when filling out this form in order that he may have a full understanding of all the questions.

## PETITION FOR THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren

of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, A.F.&A.M. of New Mexico:

The undersigned respectfully makes application for the Degrees of Freemasonry and submits the following information regarding himself as evidence of his qualifications for acceptance into the Fraternity. **(Please Print)**

1. Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Surname)

2. Born at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State)

3. Citizen of \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street and Number) (City) (State) (Zip)

5. Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(P.O. Box or Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

6. Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cel Phone \_\_\_\_\_

7. Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

8. Residence and Occupation for the past 5 years:

RESIDENCE	FROM	TO	OCCUPATION	EMPLOYER

9. Give full name of wife \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Surname)

10. Other Dependents:

NAME	AGE	RELATIONSHIP

11. Do you understand that Freemasonry is a Fraternal Society, and not an Insurance or Burial Organization? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does your family understand this? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you understand that, in the event of sickness, accident, or death, you or your family would not be entitled to any relief funds from Freemasonry other than what might be extended gratuitously? \_\_\_\_\_  
Does your Family understand this? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What motive prompted this petition? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you understand that, if accepted you will be required to pay annual dues? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you believe in a Supreme Being or Deity? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Have you ever petitioned or been rejected by this or any other Lodge of Freemasonry? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, where and when? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Have you any physical defects or infirmities? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. To what other Fraternal Organizations or Societies do you belong? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Name and address of three character references: **(Other than the Masons recommending you for membership)**

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE

20. With the understanding that all information obtained shall be treated as confidential, do you consent to a full investigation of the above statements, as made by you? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Have you had the assistance of a Freemason in answering the above statements? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what is his name? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Signed name in full \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name in full \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATION BY TWO MASONS IN GOOD STANDING, IN THE JURISDICTION OF NEW MEXICO, ONE OF WHICH MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE LODGE TO WHICH THE PETITION IS MADE**

I certify that I have known the petitioner for \_\_\_\_\_ years, \_\_\_\_\_ months and deem him worthy of initiation.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have known the petitioner for \_\_\_\_\_ years, \_\_\_\_\_ months and deem him worthy of initiation.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

A fee of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ) accompanies this petition.

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

(Secretary)