



The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DOUGLAS V. JONES, P.G.M.
Grand Secretary
4115 NINE MILE ROAD
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223-4926

Dear Interested Individual:

Shown on the next two pages is our "Petition for the Degrees," which is to be completed in its entirety by a man interested in membership, who is at least eighteen (18) years of age, a resident of Virginia for the past twelve months, and who has had two Masons in good standing sign his petition. Along with the two-page petition is a "Disclosure and Authorization For Consumer Reports" form that gives the Grand Lodge of Virginia the right to perform a background check on you.

Upon their completion, the petition and authorization form will need to be submitted to a local Lodge, along with the Lodge's required fees for a petition and background check. When printing out the petition, please print it on two sides, if at all possible. Please note that documents with sensitive personally identifiable information such as Social Security numbers and birth date must be stored securely, electronic versions shall be password protected, and must be encrypted when electronically (e-mailed) transmitted.

The usual process that follows is that your petition for degrees will be presented to the Lodge at its next meeting. The background check will be done and the final report is sent to you. A committee composed of three members of the Lodge will meet with you to answer any questions that you or your family may have concerning our Fraternity. The committee in turn will present their report to the Lodge, after which the Lodge will act upon your request.

If you have any further questions regarding this process, please contact the Grand Lodge office at 804-222-3110 or send an e-mail directly to me at grandsecretary@grandlodgeofvirginia.org.

Sincerely,

Douglas V. Jones, PGM
Grand Secretary

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES IN FREEMASONRY

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and members of

_____ **Lodge No.** _____ **A.F. & A.M.**
_____, **Va.**

Please print or type. Use reverse side, if needed, to fully answer questions.

1. (a) Name in full _____
First Middle Last
(b) Preferred Name (not a nickname) _____
2. Residence _____
Address City State Zip + 4
3. (a) Social Security No. _____ - - (b) E-mail _____
(c) Telephone No. (Home) _____ - - (Work) _____ - - (Cell) _____ - -
4. Have you ever petitioned this or any other Masonic Lodge? _____ If so, state name of Lodge, location, date and result of every petition:

(Use back of Petition for additional space.)
5. (a) Where born? _____ (b) Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
City/County State Month Day Year
6. (a) Name of Father _____ (b) Mother's Full Maiden Name _____
7. What is your occupation? _____
8. List names and addresses of your employers, beginning with your current employment, for the past ten years. (Use back of Petition for additional space.)

Name of Employer	Address	City, State, Zip	Your Occupation	Length of Employment
9. Where have you resided for the past ten years? (Use back of Petition for additional space.)

Address	Year From	Year To
10. (a) Single, Married, Widower, or Divorced? (*circle one*) (b) Wife's Maiden Name _____
List names, age and relationship of each of your dependents:

Name	Age	Relationship
11. Describe your physical defects and deformities, if any: _____
12. Have you ever been charged in a court of law with a criminal offense? YES NO (*circle one*) Explain circumstances on reverse.
13. (a) Have you answered all the questions above? _____ (b) Upon your honor, are the statements and answers true? _____

Having resided during the past twelve months within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia, I hereby state that I believe and trust in God as the Supreme Architect and Governor of the Universe and that having been born as a male, as a child of God, and continued as a man, I am unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives. I hereby freely and voluntarily offer myself as a candidate for the degrees of Masonry, being prompted to solicit this privilege by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, a desire for knowledge and a sincere wish of being of service to my fellow creatures. Should this petition be granted, I will cheerfully conform to all the established usages and customs of the Fraternity and abide by its laws, rules and regulations. I have read and acknowledge the information for the applicant noted at the top of the reverse side of this petition. Also, I certify all information contained on this application to be accurate as of the date of my signature and acknowledge that any inaccuracies may void this application.

Date _____

The fee of \$ _____ accompanies this petition.

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 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 door 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 immortality 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.

The Masonic Fraternity is in no sense an insurance society; neither does it pay benefits in case of sickness or death. In a correct and broad sense, it is both educational and charitable. It extends such assistance only as it is willing and able to grant. It knowingly admits none to membership except those who are able to provide for themselves and those dependent upon them.

FOR LODGE USE ONLY

PETITION FOR DEGREES of _____
Name in full

Dates of Lodge actions:

Received at stated meeting of Lodge held on _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Rejected _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Elected _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Initiated _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Passed _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Raised _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Fees:

E.A. _____ F.C. _____ M.M. _____ Annual Dues: _____ Member No. _____ - _____

NOTE—This petition must be filed and preserved in the archives of the Lodge for reference.

(Show Question Number)

Additional Space For Information

RECOMMENDERS (VOUCHERS) PLEASE FILL IN BELOW

We hereby certify that the petitioner has resided for the one year last past or has Masonic residence in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, that we are well acquainted with the petitioner, that we have read the answers to the questions contained in the petition and believe them to be true and that each of us believes the petitioner to be morally and physically qualified, of good character, and under the tongue of good repute. We cheerfully recommend him as a proper candidate for the degrees of Masonry.

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____

Present address _____
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Telephone No. (Home) _____ - _____ (Work) _____ - _____ E-mail _____

NAME OF LODGE _____ NUMBER _____ LOCATION _____

NAME (please print) _____ (signature) _____

Present address _____
NUMBER STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Telephone No. (Home) _____ - _____ (Work) _____ - _____ E-mail _____

NAME OF LODGE _____ NUMBER _____ LOCATION _____