



INVESTIGATION ON PETITION FOR THE THREE DEGREES

Free and Accepted Masons of Mississippi

REFERRAL TO THE COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

The following form is issued as an aid to the Subordinate Lodge in conducting its independent Investigation of the proposed Candidate. Although this form is endorsed by the Grand Lodge Education Committee, it is to serve as a basic guide, and is not to be considered mandatory. Each committee member should review this document, including the instructions, before proceeding with the investigation.

To Brother _____, Chairman

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

You are directed to examine and thoroughly investigate the standing and character of the petitioner and reply to the questions below.

Referred to the committee by order of the Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. _____

on _____
(Date)

(Secretary)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

Qualifications:

1. Is the petitioner at least 18 years old? _____
2. Has the petitioner ever been rejected by a Lodge? _____
3. Has the petitioner ever been convicted of a felony? _____
4. Does the petitioner state that he believes in God? _____
5. Does the petitioner state that he believes in the immortality of the soul? _____
6. Does the petitioner state that he believes in the resurrection of the body? _____
7. Is the petitioner able to speak, read, and write the English language? _____
8. Does the petitioner have legitimate means of support for himself and his family? _____
9. Has the petitioner been a resident of the State of Mississippi for a period of six consecutive months immediately preceding the date of his petition? _____ Month and year residence established? _____

Investigation:

10. Did you contact the two recommenders? _____
11. Did you interview the petitioner in person? (recommended) _____
 - a. Did you meet with the petitioner and his family in his home? _____
12. Does the petitioner possess sufficient knowledge and intelligence to appreciate the values, doctrines, and tenets of Freemasonry? _____
13. Did you explain the financial obligations of membership to the petitioner? _____
14. Is the petitioner able, at this time, to afford the financial obligations of membership? _____
15. Is the petitioner physically able to conform, in spirit, to the requirements of the Degrees of Freemasonry? _____
16. Does the petitioner have any physical limitations or infirmities that the Master should be aware of during the degree ceremonies? _____
17. Does the petition appear to be a man of high moral standards? _____
18. Is the petitioner of a charitable disposition? _____
19. Is the petitioner a man with whom the committee and others would willingly associate? _____
20. Does he believe in the sanctity of an oath and would an oath of secrecy conflict with the teachings of his faith? Is he willing to swear an oath? Does he understand that as a candidate he cannot be permitted to substitute the word "affirm"? _____
21. Is he a member of a church? _____ Does he attend regularly? _____

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FURTHER COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

Provide any other pertinent comments: _____

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

We declare, on our Masonic honor, that we have investigated the petition, background, reputation, character, and standing of

Mr. _____, and find that he is a man whose character and standing does / does not
(Select One)

warrant his acceptance to receive the degrees of Freemasonry. *(As per William's Digest: the committee shall not make known what the character of their report is to be, until it is read to the Lodge, and every such report, after being acted upon by the Lodge shall be at once effectually destroyed, the only record made in the minutes being whether the report was favorable or unfavorable, as the case may be, but nothing more.)*

Chairman

(Signature)

(Signature)

(Signature)

Dated: _____
Dated: _____
Dated: _____

NOTES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

- The committee is entrusted by the Lodge a serious duty that should be performed with due diligence. A thorough investigation and report will assure each Lodge member that the petitioner is an honorable and trustworthy man – or not. Conversely, if accepted, upon initiation, the petitioner will realize that he is a Brother surrounded by honorable Brothers on whose trust he can with confidence rely.
- The committee should contact the recommenders before conducting the in-person interview. The development of independent references in addition to the recommenders is encouraged.
- The in-person interview is an opportunity to ask specific questions regarding qualifications and suitability for membership and to discuss expectations about Masonry and answer questions the petitioner or his family may have.
- The committee should have informational Masonic brochures available to leave with the petitioner and his family during the in-person visit.
- Attach all documents, letters of reference, and emails, etc. obtained as part of the investigation. Personal notes on conversations with the petitioner and his references may be substituted.
- This report should be returned to the Lodge Secretary before the Lodge meeting for scheduling purposes.