

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY

_____, Florida this _____ day of _____, 20_____
To the Master, Wardens and Members of **East Gate** Lodge No. **355**, F. & A.M.

Having conceived a favorable opinion of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, and a sincere desire of being serviceable to my fellow creatures, unbiased by friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, I do freely and voluntarily offer myself as a candidate for initiation into the mysteries of your time-honored institution, and if elected, will cheerfully conform to all the ancient and established usages and customs of the Fraternity, which I understand are based on the highest principles and moral precepts and incorporate no unseemly conduct.

(The Petitioner will answer each of the following questions fully - print or type, except signature :)

Do you believe in the existence of one ever-living and true God? _____

What is your full name? _____

Where do you reside? House No. & Street _____

Indicate Post Office Box or Mailing Address if other than your residence

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____

How long resided there? _____ How long resided in the State of Florida? _____

Where have you resided during the past five years? _____

What is your present occupation? _____ How long? _____

What is your business address? _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

By whom and where employed in the past five years? _____

S.S. No. _____ Where were you born? _____

(CITY OR TOWN) (STATE)

Date of your birth: _____ day of _____ A.D. 19_____. Age: _____ Do you know of any physical, mental, legal or moral reason which would prevent you from becoming a Freemason? _____ If yes, explain _____

Have you ever pleaded guilty, or been convicted of any crime? If so, give details of when and where? _____

Are you married? _____ How many dependents? _____ Give sex and age of your children. _____

Wife's name _____

Have you previously applied for, or been proposed, as a candidate for the Degrees in a Masonic Lodge? _____

If so, when and in what Lodge? _____

What were the results? (explain fully) _____

Do you believe, or have you ever believed in the overthrow of the government of the United States of America by force or infiltration, or been a member of an organization who advocates the same? Yes ___ No ___ (If yes, give names and dates) _____

Have you ever been a member of the Order of DeMolay? _____ What Chapter? _____

Offices held: _____

Would you be interested in serving with one or more of our youth organizations? _____

FACTS CONCERNING FREEMASONRY
PETITIONER MUST READ THE FOLLOWING

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 Institution 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, his neighbor and 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 in the hope of personal gain or advancement. Admission thereto must not be sought from mercenary or other unworthy motives. The aim of the true Freemason is to cultivate a brotherly feeling among men, and to help whomsoever he can.

Freemasonry is not a Benefit Society. This fact cannot be too strongly emphasized. We do not subscribe so much a year to entitle us to draw sick pay or other benefits, or to make provisions for those who survive us. However, each Mason is expected to provide for the future of his family. 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. To be eligible for resident, non-resident or other relief programs a Florida Mason must have been a member in good standing of a Florida Lodge for not less than 10 years, the last 3 years whereof must have been continuous at the time application is made and he would not be eligible for such relief if he had already attained the age of 70 years at the time he became a Florida Mason.

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 offense.

Freemasonry has in all ages insisted that men should come to its doors entirely of their own free will, and 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 have no authority at present to give you further information regarding the Fraternity you propose to join, but we have imparted sufficient information to enable you to conclude that Freemasonry is not contrary to the principles which mark a man of upright heart and mind, and has in it nothing inconsistent with one's civil, moral or religious duties.

We think it advisable to inform you that your 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 for the support of your Lodge.

Before presenting this petition be sure in your heart that you are not prompted by mere curiosity, the desire for commercial gain or social prestige. For such motives Freemasonry has no reward.

I hereby certify on my honor that all these answers are true and correct, and that I have read, understood and agree with all statements made on this application form, and I hereby agree that I will not petition any other body of Masonry for Degrees for a period of six months after receiving my Master Mason Degree, or until I have passed a satisfactory examination in the catechism of the Master Mason Degree.

SIGN YOUR FULL NAME (in ink) _____

(Type or print your full name) _____

Initiation Fee (First Degree)	\$ 100.00 to accompany this petition.
Fellow Craft (Second Degree)	\$ 80.00
Master Mason (Third Degree)	\$ 80.00
Annual Dues.....	\$ 74.00
George Washington National Memorial Association	\$ 5.00 to accompany this petition.
Masonic Home Endowment Fund (Voluntary)	\$ 7.30
Background Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$ 15.00 to accompany this petition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend the above petitioner as a candidate for the Degrees of Masonry, based upon our belief that he is of good moral character, temperate, industrious.

(Must have two recommendations)

Signatures of Members of the Lodge to which the petition is directed: _____

{ _____

REFERENCES (NOTE: SHOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS)

Each petitioner is required to furnish in the space provided below, the names of three (3) persons (preferably Masons, local) as references that have known him for a period of five years or more.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY/STATE/ZIP
(1.) _____	_____	_____
(2.) _____	_____	_____
(3.) _____	_____	_____

TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE INVESTIGATION

I acknowledge receipt of the original background investigation obtained by the Lodge this _____ day of _____, _____ and acknowledge that my social security number has been redacted.

Signed: _____

(The following may be filled in and used when necessary :)

JURISDICTION

(See Art. X, Sec. 17 and Regulations 18.01 to 18.02)

The Committee on this petition to which was referred the question of Jurisdiction report that we have examined the law and the subject carefully, and are satisfied that this Lodge has _____ jurisdiction over the candidate.

Committee

WAIVER OF JURISDICTION

By _____ Lodge No. _____

at _____

_____ day of _____, _____

PETITIONS COMMITTEE QUALIFICATIONS

The Committee on this petition to which was referred the question of qualifications report that, in our opinion, under our Masonic Law, the candidate is _____ disqualified for initiation into Masonry in consequence of his

Committee

PETITION OF

To _____ Lodge No. _____

Fee of \$ _____ paid this _____

Day of _____, _____

Secretary

Received by the Lodge this _____ day of _____

Referred to Brothers: _____

Date Balloted Upon _____, _____

Result _____

	Date Fee Rec'd	Date Degree	Date Proficiency
EA	_____	_____	_____
FC	_____	_____	_____
MM	_____	_____	_____

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

We have diligently inquired into the character and qualifications of the petitioner and are satisfied that he (circle one:) **IS** or **IS NOT** a fit person to be made a Mason.

Therefore recommend:

Acceptance _____

Rejection _____

Acceptance _____

Rejection _____

Acceptance _____

Rejection _____

Committee

LODGE RECORDS

Date Rec'd _____

Date Supplemental _____

Notice to appear for E.A. _____

Address Stencil _____

Member Record _____

APPLICANT BACKGROUND WAIVER

Name: _____
 First Middle Last

Current Address: _____
 Street Apt. /Suite

City State Zip Code

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____
 Month Day Year

Social Security No.: _____ - _____ - _____ **

I hereby authorize the Masonic Lodge (Lodge) to which I have submitted a Petition for the Three Degrees of Freemasonry, for Dual Membership or for Affiliation, to contact any company or individual they deem appropriate to investigate my background, criminal and civil court history, character and qualifications. I further consent to their review of any and all information obtained as a result of this investigation. I understand that any matter deemed inappropriate as having possible adverse effects on The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida (Grand Lodge) or Freemasonry as a whole is justification for rejection of my Petition. I hereby waive my right to bring any cause of action against the Grand Lodge, their Officers or Members for defamation, invasion of privacy or for any other reason arising from their investigation.

I agree that if my Petition is accepted, I will abide by all of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations as set forth by the Lodge and Grand Lodge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ 20_____

I acknowledge receipt of the original criminal background investigation obtained by the Lodge this _____ day of _____, 20_____ and acknowledge that my social security number has been redacted.

Signature: _____

*The current cost of this report is \$15.00; payment must be made a part of this petition and is not refundable. The report will be delivered to the petitioner at the conclusion of the investigation. Petitioner will sign for the report on the original petition, located on the back below the References.

** Note: Upon execution of the receipt portion of this form by the individual, the Social Security Number will be redacted (delete the first five numbers).