

GRAND CHAPTER OF MASSACHUSETTS  
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INVESTIGATING COMMITTEES

“Much responsibility rests with Investigating Committees. The Brother investigates the Masonic affiliation for eligibility. The Committee’s report is based upon the result of a careful investigation and a personal call on the petitioner by EACH member of the Committee, who shall be furnished a copy of Article XXIV, Section 3a and Section 7 of the Laws & Regulations for their instruction as to correct procedure.”

ARTICLE XXIV

PETITIONS FOR INITIATION

**Section 3a.** Each petition for the degrees shall be referred to a committee of three (3), one of whom shall be a Brother. Only the Brother on the Committee has any right to inquire as to the standing of a Masonic Brother, either living or deceased. It shall be understood that the current year's dues card of a Master Mason named in the petition is considered as the equivalent of a certificate of affiliation and good standing. Where it is impossible to obtain the information in writing, the Brother on the Committee shall assure himself that the petitioner possesses the required Masonic eligibility. The FULL Committee shall investigate the character of the applicant. EACH COMMITTEE MEMBER, after a personal visit by EACH ONE upon the petitioner shall sign and return an investigation report at the next Stated Meeting, unless granted further time by the Chapter.

PETITIONS FOR AFFILIATION

**Section 7.** No residence qualification is required for affiliation. A petition for affiliation shall be accompanied by a demit or written proof of membership in good standing, signed by the Secretary and bearing the Seal of the member's present Chapter, or a Certificate of Good Standing from the Grand Chapter, and shall take the same course as prescribed for a petition for the degrees. A Brother petitioning for affiliation must be an affiliated Master Mason in good standing. The procedure in receiving and acting upon any petition for Plural Membership shall be the same as that of any other petition for Affiliation. A Certificate in Good Standing from each Chapter to which the petitioner belongs must accompany the petition. No investigation into the Masonic eligibility is required when a Sister petitions for affiliation; however, if she comes from a jurisdiction other than one under the General Grand Chapter, she shall be required to state upon what Masonic relationship her original membership was based.

If such does not comply with Constitutional provisions in the Ritual, her petition for affiliation shall not be considered. If elected, the petitioner shall sign the Bylaws and thereby becomes a member of the Chapter. (*Amend 2014*)

A lady petitioner for affiliation, lacking the Masonic eligibility required by our General Grand Chapter at the time of her initiation, but who has since acquired and now has the required Masonic eligibility, shall be eligible, if elected, to affiliate with any Subordinate Chapter without having to go through the full Initiatory work.

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