

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

(To be attached to every petition for degrees referred to a committee of inquiry.)

The best interest of Masonry demands that an exhaustive investigation be made of the character and standing of every applicant. It is imperative therefore that your investigation of the petitioner be thorough.

Members of Committees of Inquiry are urged to become familiar with those sections of the Grand Lodge Constitution which relate to applications (See Index page 3-1) and also the section on "Application" in the Maine Masonic Text Book (2002 edition) pages 8-13.

Following are the more important points on which you will wish to check:

1. Ascertain definitely if the lodge has jurisdiction over the petitioner.
2. Ascertain definitely if the petitioner has any defect or deformity which will prevent him from being instructed in the arts and mysteries of Freemasonry, or cause an inability to acquire the means of subsistence.
3. Ascertain whether the petitioner is mentally qualified to receive Masonic Degrees.
4. Ascertain whether the petitioner is morally fit to be received into the Fraternity.
5. Ascertain if any organization to which he belongs will impair his usefulness to the Fraternity.
6. Ascertain if his neighbors, acquaintances and employers give him good character.
7. Check his answers to the questionnaire attached to his petition and see that all are fully answered. If any questions have not been answered, interview the petitioner and have the same completed, or ascertain the reason for his not answering such questions.
8. Consider the financial standing of the petitioner with particular reference as to his reputation in meeting his obligations, and whether or not the maintenance of lodge membership would be in any way of financial detriment to those dependent upon him.
9. Do not make a favorable recommendation unless you are convinced that the petitioner will conform to the laws, rules and regulations of the institution.