



Organized August 20, 1875

BACKGROUND CHECK AND PETITION PROCEDURES

Effective May 29, 2026

All new members, candidates, reinstatements, and demits from foreign jurisdictions must successfully pass a criminal background check prior to petitioning a Lodge for membership. Each applicant must submit a completed Background Check Form along with the required \$25.00 background check fee. (The form must be filled out properly or will be sent back to the lodge) A letter of approval or denial will be sent to the Lodge and petitioner of the results.

1



MASTER MASON RESPONSIBILITY

The Master Mason recommending a potential candidate shall connect the prospective candidate with the local Lodge Secretary for further instructions regarding membership requirements, the background check process, and petition procedures.

2



LODGE SECRETARY RESPONSIBILITY

The Lodge Secretary shall provide the Background Check Form to the prospective candidate. The completed form, accompanied by the required \$25.00 background check fee, shall be returned to the Lodge Secretary. Upon receipt, the Lodge Secretary shall review the form to ensure it is properly completed and shall forward the form and fee to the Office of the Grand Secretary for processing.

3



APPLICATION AND INITIATION FEE RESTRICTIONS

No petition fee, application fee, or initiation fee shall be collected from the petitioner until the Lodge receives an official Background Check Approval Letter indicating that the candidate is eligible to proceed.

- A Background Check Approval or Denial Letter shall be sent to the Lodge and to the petitioner at the mailing address provided.
- If the background check is denied, the petitioner shall be notified accordingly.

4



PETITION DISTRIBUTION

Upon receipt of the Background Check Approval Letter by the Lodge Secretary, the petition for membership shall be provided to the applicant for completion.

5



PETITION RETURN

The completed petition, along with all applicable fees, shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Lodge in which the candidate is seeking membership.

6



LODGE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Lodge shall receive the completed petition, conduct a thorough investigation of the candidate, and ballot upon the petition in accordance with the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

7



ACCEPTANCE & GRAND LODGE SUBMISSION

Upon favorable ballot and acceptance of the candidate, the Lodge shall submit the required application and Grand Lodge fee (\$85.00) to the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge shall then issue the appropriate initiation, advancement, and completion forms as required.

8



DEGREE WORK SCHEDULE

The local Lodge shall establish the degree work schedule for each candidate. Lodges shall have one (1) full calendar year from the date of initiation to complete all degree work and raise the candidate to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.



MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

OFFICE OF GRAND SECRETARY

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