To be read by the petitioner before signing the attached petition, and to be detached and retained by him

TO THE SUBSCRIBER OF THE ATTACHED PETITION FOR THE DEGRESS IN FREEMASONRY

As the exact nature of the institution of Freemasonry is unknown to you, it is deemed advisable that before signing the attached petition you should be informed on certain phases of that institution which may affect your decision to apply for membership therein.

Freemasonry has in all ages requires that men should come to its doors entirely of their own free will, free born, lawful age, well recommended, not as the result of importunity nor from feelings of curiosity, but from a favorable opinion of the institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to their fellow creatures.

Freemasonry is neither a religion, a political organization, nor a social club. It interferes with none of these, but has for its foundation those basic principles of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. It believes in a Supreme Being, the immortality of the soul, and the holy bible is the inestimable gift of God to man as the rule and guide for his faith and practice. It is a fraternity or brotherhood pledged to the building of character, --thoughts, words, motives, and deeds being the material used. It inculcates the practice of every virtue and makes extensive use of symbolism in its teachings.

The Masonic fraternity is in no sense an insurance society; neither does it pay benefits in case of sickness or death. In correct and broad sense, it is both educational and charitable. It extends such assistance only as it is willing and able to grant. It knowingly admits none to membership except those who are able to provide for themselves and those dependent upon them.

Signature and all answers to questions must be in the handwriting of the petitioner, Section 219, Methodical Digest

PETITION FOR DEGREES

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and members of
_____ Lodge, No., ___ A. F. & A.M., _____, VA

The subscriber, who has resided during the twelve months last past in the State of Virginia and within the jurisdiction of your lodge, begs leave to state that he believes and trusts in God as the Supreme Architect and Governor of the Universe, and unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, he freely and voluntarily offers himself a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry, and that he is prompted to solicit this privilege by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, a desire for knowledge and a sincere wish of being serviceable to his fellow creatures. Should this petition be granted he will cheerfully conform to all the established usages and customs of the fraternity.

Name in full (print) _____
First Middle Last

Where born? _____
Post office City-County State

Your Age?_____ years (a) Date of Birth? _____
Mother's Maiden Name_____
What is your occupation? _____ Name of Employer?_____
(Above records including names of those recommending him, shall be recorded in the minutes of the lodges)

Place of Employment? _____
Where is your residence?_____Telephone No_____
Where have you resided in the ten years last past? If in more than one place state the particular years in each place.
_____
_____

(a) By whom have you been employed in the ten years last pas**t**? Specify in d**etail giving your** occupation, nam**e**, and address of each employer and the length of each employment.

_____
_____

Are you a registered voter? _____ If not, will you qualify as soon as possible? _____
Marital Status:Single, Married, Widower, or Divorced?_____

What are the names, ages, and relationship to you of each of your dependents?

Name	Age	Relationship

Describe your physical defects and deformities, if any: _____
_____

Have you ever been a defendant in a criminal case in court? _____ **I**f so, state the circumstances and results:
_____

Have you ever petitioned to this or any other Masonic Lodge? _____If so, state name of lodge, location, date and result of every petition_____

Have you read all the questions contained in the forgoing petition? ____ (b) Are all your answers there in your own handwriting ____ (c) Do you upon **your** honor declare the forgoing statements and answers to be true?
The fee of $_____ accompanies this petition.

_____
(Sign name in full, no initials)

I usually sign my name thus: _____

Dated at_____, Virginia, this _____ day of _____ 20_____

We hereby certify that petitioner has resided for the one year last past in the jurisdiction of the lodge to which the petition for initiation is made, that we are well acquainted with the petitioner, that we have read the answers to the questions contained in the petition and believe them to be true and that each of us believes that the petitioner to be normally and physically qualified, of good character and under the tongue of good repute and we cheerfully recommend him as a proper candidate for the Mysteries of Masonry.

_____ Mail address_____
Voucher.
_____ Mail address_____
Voucher.

(OVER)

PETITION FOR DEGREES

Of

Give name in full

Received at stated meeting of Lodge held

_____20____

Record of Degree Dates

Initiated _____

Passed_____

Raised_____

NOTE: This petition must be filed and preserved in the archives of the Lodge for reference.

RECOMMENDERS PLEASE FILL IN BELOW:

_____

NAME (Please print)

_____

NAME OF LODGE NUMBER LOCATION

Present address _____

NAME STREET CITY or TOWN STATE

_____

NAME (Please print)

_____

NAME OF LODGE NUMBER LOCATION

Present address _____

NAME STREET CITY or TOWN STATE