

Instructions to Investigating Committee

Hall of _____ Lodge No. _____, F. & A. M.
_____, Indiana, _____, 20 _____

Brother _____,

You are appointed one of the committee which is a most important part of our activities, that of investigating a candidate for the degrees. The enclosed questionnaire is merely a guide and stresses only the high points you are to investigate.

To conduct a perfunctory investigation and ask only the questions contained in this list would be doing only half the job. Remember this candidate, if elected, becomes your brother and you are admonished to treat him as such. Be absolutely sure that he is fitted to be your brother. Investigate carefully any points you may be in doubt of, not only for the protection of the magnificent order of which you are a member, but also for the benefit of the petitioner. A thorough inquiry now may save your Lodge or the candidate embarrassment later.

Endeavor to get in touch with four or five persons who have known the petitioner for a number of years. It is important that something be known about his standing with his employers, his neighbors and tradespeople in his community. Check up on his health and endeavor to find out if there are any hereditary diseases in his family.

We should also know something of the petitioner's financial condition and prospects, particularly if the candidate is beyond the prime of life. Remember your Lodge may be called on to look after your brother's welfare and that of his family if he is unable to do so. If the candidate has lived in the jurisdiction of your Lodge but a year or two, communicate with his references at his former home and with the Masonic Relief Board or Lodge at his former home.

Above all, it is most important that a complete report reach the Secretary promptly, as the lack of your report may cause the petitioner to be held up needlessly. The Grand Lodge Laws also require you to report orally on the floor of the Lodge at the stated meeting. If you are in doubt about any point, get in touch with the Master or one of the Wardens for advice.

Will you please take care of this most important business of your Lodge at once, or if unable to serve, communicate with the Master or Secretary at once so that another may be appointed to serve in your place without delay.

I hope that you will realize the importance of this appointment and will give the matter your very prompt and sincere attention.

Fraternally yours,

_____, Secretary