

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY A LODGE WHEN A BROTHER IS CONVICTED OF AN OFFENCE OR IS FOUND GUILTY OF MISCONDUCT

1. **Action must be taken** by the Worshipful Master on behalf of a lodge, direct or through the Secretary, if a member of that lodge is sentenced by a civil power (at home or abroad) to a **custodial sentence** (immediate or suspended), or is issued with a **Community Order** by a court, or is placed on the **Sex Offenders' Register**, or is convicted of an offence involving **dishonesty or violence**.
2. Similar action must be taken in respect of any other cases which are **likely to bring Freemasonry into disrepute**. The action required is as follows.
3.
 - a. The Master must **within twenty-eight days** of hearing of the offence(s) report any such conviction or conduct as is mentioned above relating to any member of his Lodge to the Provincial Grand Secretary. (*Strictly speaking the brother so convicted has the duty to report his offences to the Master of his lodge, but, perhaps understandably, this does not always happen.*)
 - b. A brother convicted of any offence within paragraph (1) above, whether or not he has reported his conviction(s), **shall not**, pending the determination of his case by Masonic authority, **attend any Lodge or Chapter** without the written permission of the Masonic authority having jurisdiction thereover.
 - c. Even if a convicted brother should resign from his lodge, **he remains a Freemason**, and would have to resign from the Craft as a whole before he would escape the Masonic disciplinary procedures. This course of action is available to him via The Provincial Office.
 - d. Care should be taken by members of the lodge when considering or discussing a brother's **alleged conduct** before a formal conviction or finding is declared, in order to avoid exposing themselves to accusations of rushing to justice, or even defamation of character, should the brother subsequently not be found guilty. Similarly, should the brother lodge **an appeal** against a finding, judgement should be suspended until the result of the appeal.
 - e. It is the duty of **every Brother** to comment or provide information in relation to a complaint or allegation of misconduct (whether such complaint or allegation is made against him or another Brother or a Lodge) if so required by The Provincial Grand Master, or the Board of General Purposes.