

UNATTACHED MASONS

[A] Unattached as a result of closure or amalgamation or resignation.

When a Lodge hands in its Warrant or is amalgamated into another Lodge, or a Brother resigns from his only Lodge, a problem will arise for him if he has no other subscribing memberships and he chooses not to join another Lodge. **He could find himself in a serious Masonic situation.**

Although he remains a Freemason, if he is not a subscribing member of any Lodge, he becomes 'unattached' and must so sign himself in the Tyler's book of any Lodge he visits.

When 'unattached', a Mason remains at liberty to visit Lodges but on one occasion only to each Lodge. **He may not make a second visit to any Lodge while he remains unattached, however familiar he is with that Lodge or its members.** In effect, his Masonic life is substantially curtailed.

If a Provincial Officer, he ceases to be a member of the Provincial Grand Lodge and can only attend as a guest and cannot under any circumstances vote. In this Province, however, as a courtesy, *unattached* Provincial Officers are permitted to continue to wear their Provincial regalia at any Lodge meetings they do attend. An *unattached* Brother who is not a Grand Officer would not be admitted to Grand Lodge.

This situation does not change until he again becomes a subscribing member of a Lodge, except that if he is an Honorary Member of a Lodge then he may continue to attend *that* Lodge on a regular basis, though he cannot take part in the administration of that Lodge, except to propose or second a candidate for admission, if he was formerly a subscribing member of that Lodge. He can, of course, work in that Lodge. **An Unattached Mason seeking once again to become a subscribing member of a Lodge or Chapter MUST SIGN THE DECLARATION on page two of Registration Form 'P'.**

Secretaries of Lodges are asked to give a copy of this note to any Brother who, they think, may be deciding not to join another Lodge following a decision to resign or not to transfer following amalgamation or closure.

Brethren who find themselves in this situation are welcome to seek advice from their Group or from the Province, by e-mail in the first instance.

The above situation is identical for an unattached Royal Arch Mason, but his situation in the Craft is not affected if he remains a subscribing member of a Lodge. Conversely, an unattached Craft Mason can attend Royal Arch Chapters regularly if he is a subscribing member of a Chapter.

[B] Unattached as a result of exclusion (Rule 148 and 181)

Rule 127 makes it clear that a Mason who has become unattached as a result of having been excluded from a Lodge cannot attend any Lodge or Lodge of Instruction until he has again become a subscribing member of a Lodge. This means that he cannot make the one visit to any Lodge mentioned in the third paragraph above

The same situation applies identically in the Royal Arch.