

MOVING THE LODGE (PERMANENTLY) TO ANOTHER MEETING PLACE

A - MOVING TO A RECOGNISED MASONIC MEETING PLACE

The removing of a Lodge or Chapter to a new meeting place is governed by Rule 141 of the Book of Constitutions, which places certain strict requirements upon the Lodge or Chapter. Among the most important are:-

1. At a regular meeting, at least seven subscribing members should give notice of motion of the desire to remove the Lodge.
2. That motion must be placed on the summons for the next Regular Meeting or if necessary for an Emergency Meeting for that specific purpose. That summons must reach the Brethren or Companions at least seven days before the meeting.

(A dispensation will be needed for such an Emergency Meeting in the Craft but not in the Royal Arch.)

3. At this second meeting, a two-thirds majority of those present and voting is necessary for the proposition to be carried.

Rule 141 recognises that it may be necessary, upon the removal of a Lodge or Chapter, also to alter some or all of the regular days of meeting of the Lodge or Chapter. If this is the case, then the changes should be incorporated in the same proposition as that to remove the Lodge.

4. The names of the proposers and the result of the vote must be clearly recorded on the minutes of the meeting and a copy of the relevant part of those minutes must be sent to the Provincial Grand Secretary. The summons for the meeting at which the proposition is to be put should, at the least, indicate that Rule 141 has been complied with. Preferably, the names of all the proposers of the proposition should appear on the summons.
5. When the Provincial Office sees the proposition to remove appear on the summons for the meeting at which the matter is to be decided, they will dispatch to the Lodge or Chapter the form necessary for the approval of the change. From this point, the change of location is treated in the same way as a change of By-Law and, once the proposition has been approved, the form should be completed and returned to the Provincial Office, together with a copy of the minutes referred to in number 4 above.
6. The subsequent approval of the By-Laws, if granted, completes the process.

B - MOVING TO A LOCATION NOT YET RECOGNISED AS A MASONIC MEETING PLACE

If a Lodge or Chapter desires to remove to premises which are not already approved as a Masonic meeting place it is first necessary, before any proposition is contemplated, to ask the Province (through the Provincial Grand Secretary) to visit the premises which are the intended meeting place and to inspect them with a view to their suitability for Masonic meetings.

The inspection will require a representative of the Lodge or Chapter to be present and the inspecting party will expect to see the building disposed exactly as it is intended it should be when a Masonic meeting will be taking place in it.

Upon considering the report of the inspecting officers the RW Provincial Grand Master will decide whether the building may be authorised as a Masonic meeting place.

If authorisation is given, the Lodge or Chapter concerned should then proceed as in 'A' above.

C - CHANGE OF GROUP

In the Province of West Lancashire the change of meeting place of a Lodge or Chapter may also imply a change of Group. The allocation of Lodges and Chapters to Groups is entirely a matter for the RW Provincial Grand Master and, if he sees fit, a Lodge which has moved home may be re-allocated to a Group more appropriate to its location.