

UNATTACHED MASONS JOINING (OR RE-JOINING) A LODGE

A Brother can become unattached for a variety of reasons. The simplest is straight forward resignation from a Lodge for his own reasons. But he could have become unattached for a variety of other reasons:

He could have been excluded from a Lodge in default of subscription or for other reasons.

He might have been subject to Masonic Discipline in which case he must be able to demonstrate that the period of discipline is completed.

He may have decided not to enter into an amalgamation and have ceased membership when his Lodge was subsumed into the prevailing Lodge.

Or his Lodge may simply have closed.

Lodge Secretaries must satisfy themselves carefully that they understand the circumstances in which the Brother seeking to join their Lodge became unattached.

Remember that if your Lodge accepts as a member a Brother who owes another Lodge money, your Lodge inherits the debt and becomes liable for the debt to the other Lodge (Rule 163).

An unattached Mason wishing to join a Lodge must go through the usual regular processes of proposal, seconding and ballot even if he is seeking to re-join a Lodge of which he was once a member. Familiarity must not blur due process.

He must produce his Grand Lodge Certificate (to demonstrate that he has not surrendered it nor had it taken from him by Masonic Authority) and a 'Clearance' Certificate from all the Lodges of which he has been a member (though in the case of re-joining, the Lodge would already know the Brother's status). If he was a member of a Lodge which has since closed, and is not in possession of a 'Clearance' Certificate from that Lodge, he should e-mail the Province who will assist in obtaining the necessary paperwork.

If he was a member of a Lodge which closed due to amalgamation, he should approach the prevailing Lodge of the amalgamation for a 'Clearance' Certificate.

Being unattached, unlike other candidates for joining, he has to sign the Declaration on page two of the Registration Form in the same way as candidates for Initiation.