



LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

Attract > Interview Prospective Members > *Expectation Management*

Scheduling the Date of Initiation [support material]

The following two Rules from the Book of Constitutions govern the scheduling of a Candidate's Initiation, along with other matters related to the Ceremony.

Candidates for Initiation

159. Except as provided by Rule 160, a candidate for initiation may be proposed and seconded at a regular meeting only, and he must be balloted for at the next regular meeting. If the ballot be not so taken the proposal shall lapse. The particulars required of the candidate, as well as of his proposer and seconder, shall be furnished to the Secretary of the Lodge, previously to the meeting of the Lodge at which the proposal is to be made. For this purpose the printed form of application approved by the Board of General Purposes and for the time being in use, must be employed. Copies of such printed form will be supplied by the Grand Secretary. The proposer and seconder of a candidate must either be subscribing members of the Lodge, or be qualified in this respect by Rule 167; the candidate must be personally known to them and they must be able to state that he is a man of good reputation and well fitted to become a member of the Lodge. When a candidate is not initiated on the day of his election, the date of such election shall be stated on the summons for the meeting at which the initiation is to take place. If a candidate is not initiated within one year after his election, the election shall be void. Every Brother upon initiation shall be supplied with a copy of the Book of Constitutions, and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a declaration of his submission to its contents.

Initiation in cases of urgency

160. In cases where the length of the procedure under Rule 159 would impose serious hardship upon a prospective candidate, any two members of a Lodge may send in writing to the Master, the name, age, profession or occupation (if any), and place of abode of the candidate, and the circumstances which in their opinion render it desirable that such candidate, who must be personally known to them, should be initiated as a matter of urgency. If in the opinion of the Master the urgency be real, and that hardship upon the candidate would be serious, he shall require the candidate and his proposer and seconder respectively to furnish the appropriate particulars to the Secretary of the Lodge on the printed form of application mentioned in Rule 159, not less than fourteen days previously to the regular or emergency meeting of the Lodge at which the proposal is to be submitted, and the ballot taken, and the candidate, if elected, is to be thereupon initiated.

A statement by the Master of the cause of the urgency and the nature of the hardship shall in every case be specified in the summons (issued in accordance with Rule 164) for the regular or emergency meeting at which the proposal is to be submitted. The Master, previously to the ballot being taken, shall state in open Lodge the cause of the urgency and the nature of the hardship, and such matters shall be recorded in the Lodge minutes.

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While Rule 159 allows for Initiation on the same day as election, unless there are grounds similar to those allowed under Rule 160 to accelerate the process as a matter of urgency, the best interests of the Candidate, and those of the Lodge, are normally served if they are Initiated at a meeting after that at which they are elected.

Scheduling the Initiation for a meeting subsequent to that of the Candidate's election has a number of advantages. It:

- a) allows time for the Candidate to be "properly prepared", in the full sense of the term, by their Personal Mentor and sponsors.
- b) provides the candidate with time for unhurried reflection and contemplation:
 - on their decision to make a life commitment to Freemasonry
 - that this is the correct time in their life to do so
 - that their questions, and their family's, have been answered to their satisfaction
 - that their expectations are clear and realistic
 - that discussions with their Sponsors have resolved any reservations.
- c) increases their sense of anticipation for Initiation.
- d) enables Lodges and Provinces to gather information, via questionnaire or interview, that will assist in monitoring and reviewing how we introduce new members.
- e) avoids the potential disaster and embarrassment of an unsuccessful election.