

AMALGAMATION OF LODGES

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF AMALGAMATION

The grant of a Certificate of Amalgamation will be recommended to the MW The Grand Master by his advisers, who will first wish to be satisfied that the amalgamation is acceptable to the Lodges concerned, that it is viable and that it has the support of the Masonic authority or authorities having jurisdiction over the Lodges concerned. The following steps should accordingly be taken in each case:

1. Once the Brethren of the Lodges involved are satisfied that a reasonable prospect of a successful merger exists, the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master should set up an advisory Committee* under the chairmanship of a Brother of the status of a Metropolitan Group Chairman or Assistant Provincial/District Grand Master to investigate and oversee the arrangements. The Committee should interview representatives (at least three) of each of the Lodges to explain the procedure, examine the proposals and establish a timetable.
2. The Committee should hold at least one further meeting, not less than four weeks after the first, to enable any representations from the Lodges and the Brethren concerned to be considered.
3. If the Committee and the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master remain satisfied that the amalgamation should proceed, the respective Lodges will give the appropriate notices of motion and thereafter pass the resolutions required to effect the merger. When that has been done, the Committee will advise the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master so that he may formally recommend a petition to the Grand Master through his advisers. As the viability of the proposed merger will be the principal determining factor, the voting figures on the resolutions passed by the Lodges concerned should be submitted with the Petition.
4. The Grand Master's advisers will recommend the grant of a Certificate of Amalgamation by the Grand Master conditionally upon the acceptance by the continuing Lodge of as many members of the surrendering Lodge as wish to become joining members and the subsequent erasure of the surrendering Lodge. The Certificate will therefore, when issued, bear the date of the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge at which the resolution for erasure is passed. If there is to be any change to the name of the continuing Lodge to reflect the amalgamation it can conveniently (but need not) be considered at the same time, and would be recommended subject to the same conditions (which will enable the Certificate of Amalgamation to incorporate the new name).

Draft Forms of the Lodge Resolutions (which are for a guide and may need to be varied in individual cases) are attached.

* In an appropriate case the Committee may consist of a single member.

ANNEX 1

Draft Form of Resolutions to be passed by the Lodge which will continue in existence

Notice of Motion should be given at one regular meeting (in writing on the summons) of the following resolutions:

- (a) That this Lodge accept the amalgamation into it of the [] Lodge and, jointly with the said Lodge, petition the MW The Grand Master for a Certificate of Amalgamation [and for the name of this Lodge to be changed to].
- (b) That the transfer to this Lodge of such of the assets and funds of the [] Lodge as are capable of being disposed by the members thereof shall be deemed to be payment of the joining fees in respect of such members of the [] Lodge as wish to transfer their membership to this Lodge.

At the following meeting the Resolutions must be voted on (requiring a two-thirds majority), and this should precede the vote to accept the transfer of membership of members of the other Lodge (also requiring a two-thirds majority), which may take place at this or a subsequent regular meeting held not later than the date of the removal of the Amalgamating Lodge from the register of the Grand Lodge.

ANNEX 2

Draft Form of Resolutions to be passed by the Lodge which will deliver up its Warrant to the Grand Master

Notice of Motion should be given at one regular meeting (in writing on the summons) of the following resolutions:

- (a) That this Lodge, jointly with the [] Lodge, petition the MW The Grand Master for a Certificate of Amalgamation with a view to this Lodge being amalgamated into the [] Lodge [and for the name of the Lodge to be changed to].
- (b) That, subject to the grant by the MW the Grand Master of a Certificate of Amalgamation and to the acceptance by the [] Lodge of as many members of this Lodge as wish to transfer their membership to it, the assets and funds of and disposable by this Lodge [with the exception of....] be transferred to the [] Lodge and this Lodge submit its Warrant for formal cancellation so that it may be delivered to and be held by the Master for the time being of the said [] Lodge.

Note: individual Lodges may be subject to restrictions on the disposal of the general or charity funds and such issues will need to be addressed at an early stage and embodied in the resolutions.

At the following meeting the Resolutions must be voted on, requiring a simple majority AND not less than five members voting in favour.