

Digest of Masonic Law

CHAPTER 32

FEES FOR THE DEGREES AND REFUNDS THEREOF

AMOUNT AND PAYMENT

Constitutional Provisions

No Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall confer the Three Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, for a less sum than one hundred dollars, of which a minimum fee of fifty dollars shall be required for Initiation, in addition to the fee for a criminal background investigation must accompany the petition. The fee received for Initiation shall be returned to the candidate if rejected, however, the fee received for the criminal background investigation shall be retained by the Lodge. The fee for Passing or Raising must be paid to the Secretary before the Degree is conferred; *provided*, that any Lodge may remit monthly or annual dues to members of the Lodge, who from bodily infirmities or misfortune, have become unable to pay them. (2009) (Art. X, S. 13)

Regulations

32.01 A Lodge cannot by By-Law or otherwise require a candidate for the Degrees to present, with his petition therefore, advance fees for the F.C. and M.M. Degrees, and any existing By-Law conflicting therewith is void.

32.02 A petition having been received, and favorably acted upon, the fee becomes the property of the Lodge and can only be returned as a donation or gift, but such action would in no way change the relation of the candidate to the Lodge or the jurisdiction of the Lodge over him.

32.03 When a petition is refused, or a candidate rejected, the fee must be returned. Any fee paid for the purpose of a criminal background investigation of the candidate shall not be required to be refunded. (2009)

32.04 When a worthy man petitions a Lodge for the Degrees and is elected; and before the Degrees are conferred he has a severe illness which would result in the impairment of his memory and mental faculties, the Lodge should not confer the Degrees, and if, after waiting a reasonable time for a cure to be established, the mental condition is not cleared, it would be just and proper to return the fee.

32.05 When, after a candidate has been duly elected to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, objection arises against conferring the Degree upon him, the Master shall cause an order arresting the progress of the candidate to be spread upon the minutes, which shall have the same force and effect as rejection at the ballot box, and the fee accompanying the petition shall be returned.

32.06 When an applicant for the Degrees dies before the ballot is taken, the proceedings abate, and the fee shall be handed to his family or legal representatives, and if he dies after rejection and before the fee shall have been returned to him, the same rule applies.

Rulings and Decisions

When fees were \$30 for Three Degrees when applicant petitioned for the Degrees but before F.C. was conferred, the fees were increased, the applicant shall be required to pay only the fees in effect at the time he presented his petition. (1946 Proc. 35)

Where the domicile Lodge refused to waive its perpetual jurisdiction over the petitioner, all proceedings must be abated and the fee returned to the applicant. (1948 Proc. 52)

A petitioner elected to receive the Degrees shall pay the fee for each Degree which existed at the time he was elected unless by reason of his delay a second ballot is required under the provisions of Regulation 37.02, in which event, he shall pay the fees which existed at the time of the subsequent ballot. (1954 Proc. 62)