

# The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida

DONALD W. COWART  
Grand Master

P.O. Box 1020  
Jacksonville, FL 32201-1020  
Mbl. 813-431-4923  
Email: don.cowart@grandlodgefl.com

## RULING AND DECISION NO. 3

October 17, 2024

The question has been raised concerning the use of social media platforms for the circulation of critical and controversial information. I refer you to Regulation 26.21 as follows:

### Digest of Masonic Law Chapter 26 MEMBERSHIP, RIGHTS, STATUS, AND DUTIES

**“26.21** No Mason or Masons subject to the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida shall, by written or printed critical or controversial communications of any kind, circularize the Officers and members of any Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

It is the intent, spirit, and purpose of this Regulation to prevent the dissemination and circulation of critical and controversial communications between or concerning Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction. It is not the intent, spirit, or purpose to prohibit or interfere with official communications by Officers and members of the Grand Lodge, and by Officers and members of Particular Lodges, and by District Masonic Officers, necessarily carried on between Grand Communications for the orderly and regular conduct of the affairs of Masonry in this Grand Jurisdiction, and such communications are specifically exempted from the provisions of this Regulation. Likewise, non-controversial Masonic bulletins and publications are specifically exempted.

Between Annual Grand Communications of the Grand Lodge, the enforcement of this Regulation is placed in the hands of the Grand Master and he shall have the power to issue such admonitions, reprimands, Executive Orders, and Edicts, as he may be advised, necessary to carry out the spirit, intent, and purpose of this Regulation. All of his acts and doings in the enforcement and administration of this Regulation shall be reported at the next Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge with his report for review by the Grand Lodge.”

**Therefore, it is my Ruling and Decision that any Mason that endeavors to post on any online platform, including but not limited to social media, blogs, websites, forums, podcasts, and video sharing, any critical and/or controversial communications between or concerning Masons or any other derogatory Masonic information shall be in violation of Regulation 26.21 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida and shall be subject to Masonic discipline.**

Fraternally,

  
Donald W. Cowart  
Grand Master