


GRAND LODGE  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON MASONIC BENEVOLENCE

The Committee on Masonic Benevolence was established in March 1949 and charged with the responsibility of assisting Lodges and Districts in providing help, aid and comfort to distressed Masons, their widows, orphans and families. The Committee is also charged with assisting the distressed in contacting government, community, private and Masonic resources which may provide additional relief. Assistance from the Committee can be arranged under three basic categories:

- (1) Requests for financial assistance which are of an emergency nature only, and which can be expected to terminate by reason of the recipient's returning to productive employment.
- (2) Situations which, after investigation, reveal a need for permanent planning, such as institutional care or long-term financial aid, from an appropriate agency.
- (3) Requests for assistance of an advisory nature, where the applicant seeks referral service to an agency best equipped to meet their immediate problem..

The demands for the Committee's services and its limited funds are significant and great care must be exercised in the disbursement thereof. For this reason, the Committee has established the following policies to serve as a general guide to Districts, Lodges and individuals applying for assistance. It is important to note that as a fraternal and philanthropist organization, these rules have been established simply as a "general guide" and the Committee is permitted to be flexible and use its own discretion on a case by case basis.


- (1) Financial aid can be granted only to Master Masons, their wives, widows, orphans and dependent minor children.
- (2)  The report of the Lodge and the investigation of the Committee must indicate that the applicant is worthy of assistance. In this respect **the Committee will be guided largely by the decision of the Lodge**, and if the Lodge of which the applicant is a member deems him unworthy, the case will be closed as far as this Committee is concerned.
- (3) It will be the policy of the Committee to recommend the utilization to the fullest extent possible the assistance, financial and otherwise, of all Government, Community and Private Agencies, which may have funds or services available to meet the needs of any particular case.
- (4) District and Lodge cooperation and participation is sought whenever financial aid is granted.

The Following steps outline the procedure for applying for aid and assistance from the Committee:

- (1) Individuals seeking assistance from the Committee are advised to contact the Worshipful Master or Secretary of the Masonic Lodge that they or their family member is affiliated with and make their case or circumstances known to the Lodge.
- (2) The Worshipful Master or Secretary of the Lodge should request an “*Application for Aid and Assistance*” (Form No. 5) from the Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Benevolence or the Assistant Grand Secretary, R.: W.: Richard W. Bateman. The Chairman may be contacted as follows;

W.: **Wesley Powell**, 25 Guilette Place, Amityville, NY 11701  
Tel. (631) 691-7367      Fax. (631) 691-2915      email: [salwes@optonline.net](mailto:salwes@optonline.net)

- (3) The Worshipful Master should appoint an investigating committee and charge them with the responsibility of visiting the distressed Brother or family member and with the responsibility of completing the “*Application for Aid and Assistance*” (Form No. 5). In the event that the distressed Brother or family member resides outside a reasonable distance from the Lodge, the Worshipful Master should make a request through the Office of the Grand Secretary to arrange for another Lodge or Masonic jurisdiction to conduct the investigation and complete the “*Application for Aid and Assistance*” (Form No. 5) as a Masonic courtesy.

- (4)  The completed “*Application for Aid and Assistance*” (Form No. 5) **must be signed by the Lodge’s Worshipful Master, Secretary, Investigating Committee Representative and Applicant. It must also bear the seal of, the Lodge.** The completed form bearing the proper signatures and seal is to be submitted directly to the chairman of the Committee on Masonic Benevolence for the Committee’s review, determination and action.

The Committee on Masonic Benevolence is also charged with the task of Assisting the Trustees of the Masonic Care Community in promoting the use of the Masonic Care Community at Utica.