

DEMITTS.

Section 37.—Application for Dimit must be made in person, in open Lodge, or by written application, when the same shall be granted, provided the applicant is clear of the Lodge books and no charges pending.

CHARTERS.

Section 38.—No Lodge can surrender its charter so long as there are seven Master Masons members of the Lodge, who desire to work under such charter, according to the Regulations of the Grand Lodge and Usages of Masonry.

TRIALS.

Section 39.—All trials for masonic offenses in Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall be as follows: A regular charge in writing, specifying the nature of the offense and signed by the accuser, shall be delivered to the Secretary, who shall read it at the next regular communication. And it shall be the duty of the Secretary to give due and timely notice to the accused of the time, place and manner of the trial, who shall be entitled to a copy of the charges and to ample time and opportunity to prepare his defense.

Section 40.—All masonic trials shall be in the Lodge of the highest degree to which the accused has attained. in which the examination of witnesses shall take place, in the presence of both the accused and the accuser, who shall have the right to be present at all examinations of witnesses, in or out of the Lodge, and to propose such relevant questions as they may desire.

Section 41.—After the trial is concluded, the accused and the accuser shall be requested to retire, and in case the trial has been in a Lodge of Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts, the Lodge shall then be open on the third degree, for no decision shall be made after regular trial, except in a Master Mason's Lodge, in which the question of guilty or not guilty shall be put by the Master, when all the members present shall be required to vote by ballot, and of which two-thirds shall be in the affirmative, or the accused shall be declared not guilty.

Section 42.—If the verdict be guilty, the Master shall put the question as to the amount of punishment, beginning with the highest and ending with the lowest masonic punishment herein provided.