

The District Deputy Grand Master may hear and determine any Masonic complaint respecting Lodges or brethren within his District. Upon the reception of a complaint or charge in writing he should direct the party or Lodge preferring the same to serve a copy on the Lodge or brother complained against. He should require an answer to be made to the complaint within a limited time. He should fix a time and place for the investigation and summon all parties to be present. In some cases, it will not be necessary to take oral testimony, and the case can be decided upon the papers and documents submitted on both sides. Where the evidence of parties is necessary, time should be allowed for their production and examination. After hearing all the evidence, and the statements on both sides, he determines the matter by giving his decision. This should be done in writing and communicated to both parties.

The District Deputy Grand Master may proceed to admonition or suspension, until the decision of the Grand Master is made known on the question. He may inflict the penalty of reprimand or admonition at once. He may suspend the Lodge or brother in default, but only for such time as the Grand Master may determine, or until the Grand Master decides to remove the suspension. His duty in communicating the proceedings to the Grand Master has already been stated.

He may summon any Lodge, or its Master and Wardens to attend him. He may order them to produce their Warrant, books, papers and accounts before him. If they do not comply with his summons or order, nor give a sufficient reason for not doing so, he may then issue a peremptory summons, and, if that is not complied with, he may suspend the Lodge, and notify the Grand Secretary to that effect.

He has power to reprimand or suspend a Lodge for the breach of any

law or regulation, to which no specific penalty is attached by the Constitution; but his suspensions are liable to be reversed or removed by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

The District Deputy Grand Master may restore a brother, when he is satisfied that such brother has been unjustly or illegally suspended by a Lodge in his District. This power should only be exercised after a full and careful investigation of all the circumstances. The right of a Lodge to discipline its members is one which should be interfered with as seldom as possible. The Lodge is, in general, the best judge of the guilt or innocence of the accused; and it is only in cases of manifest injustice, that the power of restoration in its absolute form, should be put in force. The District Deputy Grand Master should be fully satisfied that a wrong has been done; that the trial was conducted in an improper manner; that the accused did not have fair play; that he was not allowed time for his defence, or that the punishment was disproportionate to the offence. Then he should exercise the power given him by the Constitution, and restore the suspended brother to good standing.

This is done by a written mandate or order, reciting the circumstances of the suspension, and showing its illegality or injustice, and concluding by ordering that the brother named shall be and is hereby restored to his former standing.

The same power exists where a brother has been unjustly or illegally removed or excluded from any of his Masonic functions or privileges, by a Lodge within his District.

In all cases of restoration by a District Deputy Grand Master, the Lodge whose decision is thus set aside has a right of appeal to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

In connection with this power of restoration, the District Deputy Grand Master may suspend a Lodge or brother for non-compliance with his