

The vote on the nature of the punishment may be taken by a show of hands, unless a ballot be called for, and decided by a two-third vote of the members present.

Section 43.—If the residence of accused is not known, or if upon due summons, he refuses or neglects to attend, the Lodge may proceed to a trial without his presence.

Section 44.—The witnesses in all Masonic trials, whether Masons or not, shall be persons who have the use of their reason, and such religious belief as to feel the obligations of an oath, and who have not been convicted of any infamous crime.

Section 45.—The testimony of Masons shall be taken in Lodge, or in committee; that of competent persons not Masons, by a committee.

Section 46.—Before a Mason can be deprived of membership for non-payment of dues, he must be granted a hearing if desired, and at least two weeks notice shall be given him of the time appointed for such hearing, but the formalities of a regular trial may be dispensed with. A Mason so excluded shall be restored to membership on payment of all arrears.

Section 47.—The Masonic punishment which may and shall be inflicted by the Grand Lodge and its subordinates, for unmasonic conduct, shall be either reprimand, definite or indefinite suspension or expulsion from all the rights and privileges of masonry.

Section 48.—A reprimand may be either private or public, but shall not be given except by a majority vote of the members present, nor until the offender has had due notice, and an opportunity for explanation or excuse; nor by any one but the acting master, in the manner and form he may deem proper, to the offender, in private or in open Lodge, from his appropriate station.

Section 49.—A sentence of expulsion shall not take effect until affirmed by the Grand Lodge, but *ad interim*, shall operate as a suspension.

Section 50.—If the sentence shall be expulsion, an attested copy of all proceedings and evidence shall be sent to the Grand Secretary at least ten days (if the time will permit) before the annual communication.