

Resolution 2020-18

Penalty for Failure to Reply to a Summons
(Requires 2/3 majority for approval)

Synopsis: Statute Section 18-222.1(b) conflicts with the requirements of a summons defined in Statute Section 1-101 as shown.

Summons - A Summons is an imperative order, issued by the Master or by other competent authority, as hereinbefore provided, to appear at such time and place as may therein be designated. The obligation to obey it is absolute and the penalty for disobedience shall be expulsion, unless it shall be shown that such disobedience was unavoidable or was occasioned by some pressing necessity. A summons for any purpose other than a trial may be served by mail. A Brother receiving a summons has no right to question its legality or to refuse to obey it. The expulsion can only be ordered by the Grand Master, with the final decision being made by Grand Lodge.

This resolution is proposed to resolve this conflict.

Therefore be it resolved that Statute 18-222.1 be amended as follows: (additions in **bold type**, deletions in ~~striketrough~~)

Section 18-222.1 – Penalties, Reprimand. If the sentence be reprimand, the Master shall Masonically summon the adjudged to appear at the next stated meeting after the result of the trial shall have been announced, when it shall be carried into effect in the presence of members of the Lodge only, except where an appeal to the Grand Lodge has been taken before said meeting, the sentence shall not be carried into effect unless or until the same is affirmed by the Grand Lodge.

- (a) A sentence of reprimand cannot be given in any Lodge than the one where the trial was had.
- (b) A Lodge cannot compel the attendance of a brother for the purpose of receiving a sentence ~~or of~~ reprimand imposed at a trial. **If When** he is summoned to appear and fails to show a valid excuse for not appearing ~~charges may be preferred for such disobedience, and the brother tried thereon.~~ **the penalty shall be expulsion.**
- (c) Where a Brother has been tried and convicted of an offense, a demit cannot be issued to him prior to the passing of a sentence of reprimand.

Submitted by

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