

*Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M.*  
Washington and Jurisdiction



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Office of the  
MW Grand Master  
**LESTER L. DICKSON**



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**TO:** Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brethren.

**SUBJECT: EDICT: HAZING DURING CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Candidates undergoing the symbolic degrees have in some cases been physically abused. Whether the cause was over-zealousness by some Master Masons or the lack of knowledge on proper and approved initiation techniques, **any abuse will not be tolerated.**

Worshipful Masters will ensure that their degree teams are aware of any special or prohibiting medical condition(s) a candidate may have which could become aggravated during the conferring of degrees and take appropriate precautions.

The risk of liability to your lodge and the Grand Lodge is of great concern. What is even more important is the physical and/or mental abuse to the candidate. There are other methods of ensuring that the integrity and meaning of each degree is communicated without the physical abuse of a candidate.

Therefore, I am directing that each Worshipful Master or Brother presiding over the conferring of degrees shall read, or cause to be read this hazing letter prior to the performance of any degree work. Worshipful Masters or presiding officers will be held accountable. This will remain in effect until further notice.

Should you have questions regarding this correspondence, contact your District Deputy Grand Master. Additionally, contact the Grand Lecturer on approved methods as well as the Executive Grand Officers.

You are to take due notice of the contents of this communication and govern yourselves accordingly.

Fraternally Submitted,

MW Lester L. Dickson  
48<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of Masons  
MWPHGL F&AM of WA & Jurisdiction



Attested by:

RW Jimmie Jordan  
Grand Secretary

*"Through unity we shall accomplish great things"*