

# Fulfilling Our Obligation Program

FUNDED BY THE FREEMASON ENDOWMENT

**"Kansas Masons have taken the lessons of friendship, morality and brotherly love and have applied these virtues to our daily lives. To our country we are faithful. In our communities we are generous. To our neighbors, we are always willing to pool our resources and hand them over without hesitation. We have given our time our resources, and our money, to our communities, and our neighbors. We have always answered the call for support. We do these things because as masons we have been taught to practice charity.**

**Most of us feel that the obligation is especially acute when the Brother or widow is elderly; but, young or old, we have promised to Fulfill Our Obligation."**



**KANSAS MASONIC FOUNDATION**

*Dedicated to Serving Humanity*

**Financial Assistance Application** for a distressed Kansas Master Mason, his Wife, Widow, or a Masonic Orphan.

(Note: A Masonic orphan is defined as a minor child who has lost his or her Master Mason father.)

As Masons we were taught in our Lodges:

- to aid and assist our poor or distressed
- charity is the distinguishing characteristic of Masons
- that we promulgate the principles of Brotherly love and RELIEF

These duties are carried out both individually and through our Lodges. Our local Bodies are the closest organizations to our members and the most likely to know when a Brother is in need. Thus, it is important that all Lodges continually monitor their membership through personal contact, committees, surveys, etc. This fraternal concern of our members never ceases.

Our Brothers in distress may have many different needs. A member may need...

- a screen door repaired or a shelf replaced
- assistance in shopping for groceries or prescriptions
- transportation to the doctor
- companionship or visitation with quality time to combat loneliness, or just stay in touch
- financial assistance

**This financial assistance application must be discussed and approved at a stated meeting and then forwarded to the Kansas Masonic Foundation.**

**The Lodge is counted upon, as a normal course of their business, to conduct an adequate investigation of all the factors surrounding this request for assistance. This investigation must include a personal visit with both the member and his/her family.**

**Answers to the questions on this form do not automatically determine the approval or denial of the application. This is information intended only to help the Foundation understand the recipient's needs.**

The Lodge, as a part of its fraternal commitment, is expected to provide what volunteer and financial assistance it can. Most needs are not financial. Many needs can be met by the local Lodge sharing its time, talent, and its own financial resources with its member.

Occasionally, the need will be large enough for financial assistance from the Fulfilling Our Obligation Program. Both The Grand Lodge of Kansas and Kansas Masonic Foundation want to be there to help our Brothers.

Working together we can assure that no Brother, his Wife, Widow, or a Masonic Orphan will ever go without our help of Fulfilling Our Obligation!

# Fulfilling Our Obligation Program

FUNDED BY THE FREEMASONS ENDOWMENT

## APPLICATION FOR FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATION FUNDING

In order to qualify, the **LODGE** must be actively engaged in raising their portion of the money to be contributed to the Fulfilling Our Obligation Program.

The Lodge then votes to contribute the funds from the Lodge charity account.

**THE PRESENTATION MUST NOT BE MADE UNTIL THE FREEMASON ENDOWMENT FUNDS ARE RECEIVED**, at which time the total gift should be made in the name of the local Lodge only. This is in order to receive maximum exposure for your Lodge.

Application Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Person Completing Application: \_\_\_\_\_

(Not to be completed by intended recipient)

### LODGE INFORMATION

Lodge Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### RECIPIENT INFORMATION

Name of Recipient(s): \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Date Master Mason: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Because *Fulfilling Our Obligation* in Masonry matters, we owe a special duty to aid and assist our Masonic family.

**Is recipient a:**  Master Mason  Mason's Wife  Mason's Widow  Masonic Orphan (minor)

Explanation of Need: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Use of Funds: (for example - medical, utilities, living expenses)

**Use:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Give specific date or "when funds need to be received")

Please allow approximately **10-14 days** from receipt of Application for presentation date. This is necessary for Committee action and U.S. Postal Service time.

## SOURCE OF FUNDS

The Fulfilling Our Obligation Program will contribute funds to those raised by the Lodge. This can be done in any of 3 ways, or by a combination of approaches:

1. The Lodge can vote the funds out of the Lodge treasury.
2. The Brethren of the Lodge can "Pass-the-Hat".
3. The Lodge can go out into the community to raise the money.

Please show below the source(s) of the funds the Lodge is contributing to the request.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Lodge is contributing (from Treasury, Pass-the-Hat and/or Fundraiser)

Lodge Treasury \$\_\_\_\_\_

Pass-the-Hat \$\_\_\_\_\_

Fundraiser \$\_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Lodge is requesting from the Fulfilling Our Obligation Program.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total amount to be given to recipient(s)

**Describe Lodge Fundraiser:** (i.e.: breakfast, dinner, auction, bake sale, etc. & where event was held)

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(Enclose any newspaper articles, flyers, fund-raising tickets, etc. that show the Lodge involvement in the fundraiser. The more information received from the Lodge the better able is the Committee to make a decision)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Special donations and other special sources during the fundraiser

Describe Source: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date Lodge voted at a stated meeting to help recipient and apply to the Fulfilling Our Obligation Program.

Is emergency action required?  Yes  No

## SIGNATURES

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sec. Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(W.M. Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Daytime contact number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Daytime contact number)

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Deputy Grand Master or Area Deputy Grand Master

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date

If you have any questions, call the Kansas Masonic Foundation at 785.357.7646. We're always happy to talk with you and to offer any support we can to your efforts.

# FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATION PROCEDURE

1. Identify a Kansas Mason or family member in need.
2. Unless the situation is confidential, make announcements of the fund and activity.

**Note: Since your Lodge will not know for sure whether the request will qualify for Funds until the end of the application process...DO NOT NOTIFY ANYONE in advance the amount of funds that are being requested.**

3. Raise the funds
  - A. Vote the funds from the treasury.
  - B. Take a collection among the Brethren.
  - C. Hold a community fund-raiser.
  - D. Any combination of the above.
4. Segregate the funds and hold them.
5. Submit an application for Fulfilling Our Obligation from the Freemason Endowment.
6. When received, deposit check from the Freemason Endowment in your Lodge's account.
7. Write a check for the entire amount (Freemason Endowment + Lodge Funds) and present it to the recipient.
8. Complete and return the "Completion Form" after the presentation is made.

# FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATION RULES & CONDITIONS

- A. The Kansas Masonic Foundation and Grand Lodge of Kansas will consider requests from the local Lodge through the Fulfilling Our Obligation Program funded by the Freemason Endowment.
- B. The Lodge must already have the FUNDS on hand and set aside from the Lodge charity fund before being eligible for funding. The presentation must be made in the name of the LODGE ONLY.
- C. All money (local funds and Freemason Endowment funds) are to be presented at one time by, and in the name of the local Lodge. This is to afford the local Lodge maximum credit and exposure.
- D. A Lodge must make application and **receive the funds** from the Kansas Masonic Foundation **BEFORE** presenting any funds.
- E. Lodges must certify to the Kansas Masonic Foundation that the funds from the Freemasons Endowment were actually used for the approved purpose by returning the Completion Form enclosed with the Freemason Endowment check. The return address is shown on the Completion Form.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**QUESTION:** I am a Master Mason living here in Kansas but my Lodge is in another state, am I eligible for this program.

**Answer:** No, this program is available for active Kansas Master Masons.

**QUESTION:** Can I apply for others outside my immediate family?

**Answer:** Only Master Masons, current wife, widow or minor children that are living at home and a dependent of the Kansas Master Mason.

**QUESTION:** Can this program be utilized for a Brother that is unable to pay his annual dues?

**Answer:** If a Brother does not have the available money to pay his annual dues there is more than likely a more deep seated problem that the Lodge should visit with him about.

**QUESTION:** Is there a length of time that a Brother must be a Master Mason to be eligible?

**Answer:** No.

**QUESTION:** The money is disbursed directly to the Lodge from the KMF. As such can the Lodge elect to provide the financial help in installments versus all at one time?

**Answer:** The Lodge makes the decision and is responsible for administration of the funding request. The Lodge is in the best position to determine when the financial assistance is required and how to pay out the funds.

**QUESTION:** Can the Lodge reapply if they find the Brother needs additional assistance?

**Answer:** Yes the Lodge can make additional requests as needed/required.

**QUESTION:** Can this program be utilized to pay the funeral expense of a Brother?

**Answer:** Only if the departed Brother has no available family members still living. It is expected, while it may be an unexpected burden, that the family should pay expenses associated with the

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Kansas Masonic Foundation

**Attention:** Fulfilling Our Obligation Program Committee  
2909 SW Maupin Ln  
Topeka, KS 66614

**In case of emergency, call the Kansas Masonic Foundation at 785.357.7646**