

Expulsion Policy - Lethal Weapon On Lodge Property **(Section 46.20)**

The Loyal Order of Moose, as the Family Fraternity, has a zero tolerance policy* concerning violations of Section 46.20 (Lethal Weapons On Lodge Property) of the General Laws of our Order.

The following policy is effective for lodges expelling a lodge member for having a lethal weapon on lodge property in violation of Section 46.20 of the General Laws:

Before a lodge member may be expelled for having a lethal weapon on lodge property, the Board of Officers shall conduct a thorough investigation. After conducting an investigation, if it appears that a violation of Section 46.20 occurred, the Board of Officers should conduct a hearing. It is recommended that the board consider adopting procedures similar to that established for House Committee hearings as set out in the third paragraph of Section 48.9. The Board of Officers should conduct the investigation and hearing as discreetly and confidentially as possible. A confidential file should be created. All statements and minutes shall be considered confidential and placed in this file. Neither the documents nor the minutes of the board's meetings on this matter are to be read to or approved by the lodge membership.

The Board of Officers should obtain signed and dated written statements from all witnesses. The statements should contain as much detail as possible. At the hearing, the accused should be afforded the opportunity to tell his side of the story and bring any witnesses before the Committee. In lieu of a personal appearance, the accused may submit a signed and dated written statement. A majority of the board must find as a fact the following two things: (1) the member had a lethal weapon (as that term is defined in our General Laws¹), and (2) the lethal weapon was on lodge property. The facts supporting this conclusion should be summarized in the Board of Officers minutes. If both 1 and 2 are determined to be true by a majority vote of the board, the member shall be expelled.

The lodge administrator shall send to the General Governor a copy of the entire record, including all minutes, notices, witness statements, etc. along with a signed letter by him on behalf of the lodge Board of Officers stating that the lodge has expelled the member. The General Governor will notify the appropriate departments at Moose International of the expulsion.

For liability reasons, the House Committee shall immediately suspend the member's social privileges pending the investigation and final decision. If a serious situation exists and the facts warrant, the General Governor will consider suspending the member's membership in the fraternity as provided by Section 23.2, pending a final decision by the Board of Officers concerning the issue of expulsion. The lodge may not expel the member unless the original hearing notice informed him that he would be expelled if he failed to attend the hearing.

Any questions should be directed to the General Governor's office at Moose International.

*The General Laws effective July 1, 2004 grants the General Governor discretionary authority to exempt a member from the strict application of this section in meritorious situations.)

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¹ Any weapon, or object, that may otherwise be legal to possess under state or local law shall still constitute a lethal weapon, where that weapon has been used to threaten, intimidate, harass, cause injury, or otherwise violate the safety and security of the Lodge or any guest or member of the Lodge.