



Who is a Qualified Family Member?

(Guests, Family Functions & Community Service)
Office of the General Governor

An active lodge or chapter member's family may be admitted as a qualified guest into a social quarters of a lodge. This section is limited to "immediate" family and we are frequently asked to define this term. We refer to the IRS dependent classification of immediate family which includes: son, daughter, grandchild, stepchild, adopted child, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, stepfather, stepmother, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law and sister-in-law. Therefore, refer to this list when asking who is a family member.

Legitimate family occasions include: wedding receptions, birthday parties, anniversary parties, high school or college graduation celebration, bridal shower, baby shower, family reunion, etc.

What do we consider to be a "recognized" community service program and "legitimate" family occasion under Section 47.2? As a family fraternity devoted to serving our communities, we liberally consider requests for dispensation to hold such events. The lodge can be used by community service groups for specific fundraisers or functions. We do allow other organizations to use our lodges to make a profit for specific charitable causes such as fundraisers for community disasters, MDA, blood drives, scouting programs, senior citizens groups, hunter safety courses, finger printing by the local police department, youth awareness programs, youth sporting programs, etc. In limited instances, the lodge can conduct fundraisers and keep the profits. By keeping involved in the community, the lodge receives an enhanced image, a sense of pride and hopefully, increased membership.

Alcohol is allowed at community service events only in accordance with strict parameters set by this office. Non-members are not allowed into the social quarters (except as qualified guests or as prospective members) and at approved family occasions the "member" must pay for everything. Observance of these rules will help protect that which has been entrusted to our care. If you have any questions please call the General Governor's office at 1-630-966-2207.

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