

DIMIT OR WITHDRAWAL

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Certificate of Withdrawal

§ 3.1.218 of the Digest of Laws states:

A Mason holding Plural Membership may withdraw from any Lodge by applying for and receiving a Certificate of Withdrawal. A Certificate of Withdrawal, as herein provided, shall not be valid for the purpose of applying for and obtaining membership in another Lodge. -Pro. 1949, p. 103.

A Certificate of Withdrawal is only used for a *plural* member to terminate his membership in *one* of the Lodges of which he is a member. So long as a man is a member of more than one Lodge, if he desires to terminate his membership with one or more of those Lodges, but remain a member of any one Lodge, he is issued a Certificate of Withdrawal.

Certificate of Dimit

§ 3.1.175 of the Digest of Laws states:

Any Master Mason can dimit from his Lodge and remain unaffiliated; but in so doing he loses all the benefits of Masonry, yet is not absolved from his obligations, and is subject to discipline for un-Masonic conduct by any Lodge in whose jurisdiction he may reside. -Pro. 1874, p. 14.

A Certificate of Dimit is used for a member to terminate his membership in the fraternity. It does not relieve him of his obligations, but places him in the status of a “non-affiliated” mason (a mason who is not a member of some regular Lodge). It can be used (in lieu of a Certificate of Good Standing) to petition another Lodge for membership.

EXAMPLE: A member who is a member of four (4) Lodges who desires to terminate his membership in the fraternity would be issued a Certificate of Withdrawal by three (3) Lodges and a Dimit from one (1).