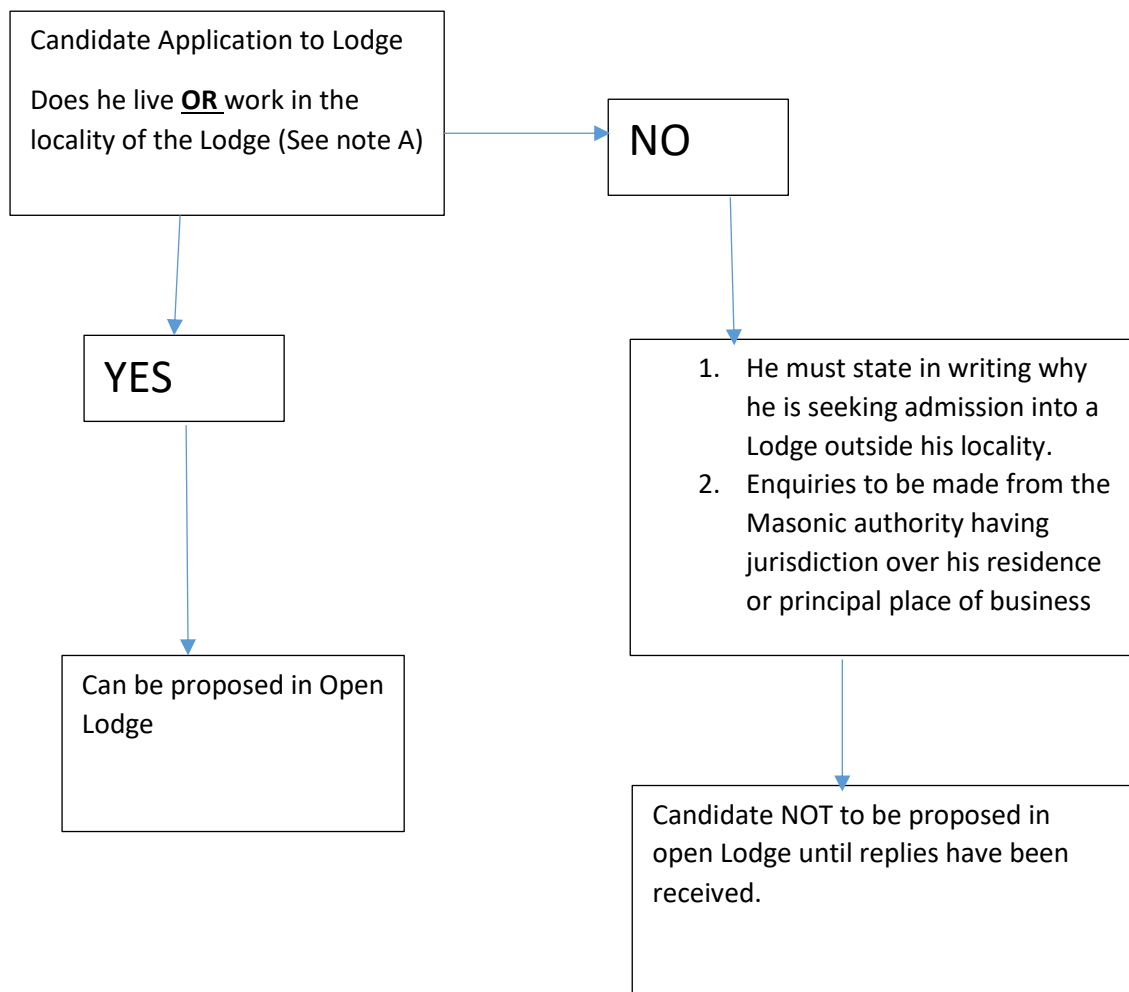


158. If a candidate for initiation seeks admission to a Lodge in a locality in which he has neither a permanent residence nor a regular place of business or employment, he shall state in writing his reasons for so doing, and his reason for not seeking admission to a Lodge in the locality of his residence or principal place of business. In such a case the Lodge to which he seeks admission, upon the receipt of a proposal form for initiation, shall forthwith make enquiries as to the candidate's suitability from the Masonic Authority having jurisdiction over the locality of his residence or principal place of business. A candidate coming within the provisions of this Rule shall not be proposed in open Lodge until the Masonic Authority has replied to the enquiries.

The above rule seems to cause difficulty with regards to candidates to Freemasonry. To simplify the process the below flow chart will hopefully assist.



Note A- It is often thought that this is lives AND works in the Locality of the Lodge he is applying to join. It is Lives OR works. The next item that causes a problem is the phrase the Masonic Authority having jurisdiction over the Lodge.

“Locality” is used deliberately, and allows scope for common sense in the interpretation of the Rule.

From Information for the guidance of members of the craft

As this states you have to use common sense when sending out Rule 158 enquiries and NOT send them out for every candidate even when they are from or work in your area. .