



DAVID R. RITCHIE

Grand Master 2023 - 2024

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12 June 2023

GRAND MASTER'S EDICT

To Be read at the next Stated Communication of your Lodge

WHEREAS: Upon review of our Masonic Code and after consultation with my officers and Advisors, and upon further review of Wisconsin State Statutory provisions, which provide Immunity from civil suit for those persons and enterprises that allow Concealed Carry by legally Licensed individuals in the State of Wisconsin, and after much further review of the those best Steps to ensure the safety and welfare of our Brothers, families, and friends when using our Grand Lodge and Lodge properties throughout our Grand Jurisdiction.

That, effective on the execution of this Edict and under Article 2.05 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code (2019),

IT IS, THEREFORE, MY EDICT THAT:

1. All Freemasons who are in Good Standing, and,
2. Who are duly licensed to carry their self-defense weapons on their persons, concealed, Under the Laws of the State of Wisconsin, you may do so at any time at any Lodge whether Or not there is a function, stated meeting, or appendant body function utilizing the Lodge property going on, within or without the building and on the grounds of the Grand Lodge Session or Lodge property,
3. No Masonic Officer or Trustee within the Grand Lodge or a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall infringe or restrict the right of a Masonic Brother to carry a concealed Weapon legally in any Lodge Building, or Lodge property, or at public or Masonic events at any Lodge, and will not, without Dispensation from the Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons in Wisconsin place a sign, notice, or other information advising the public which prohibits concealed carry in those buildings or on those grounds described in this Edict, and,
4. Current Brothers of this Grand Jurisdiction who are members of Law Enforcement as defined under the Wisconsin State Statutes, whether they be State or Federal Officers, or serving members of the Uniformed Services of the United States or former members of the Uniformed Services, honorably discharged, who have their Concealed Carry license, are exempt from the requirements of Chapter 175 Wisconsin Statutes, except as may be determined from time to time by the Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons in Wisconsin, and

5. Other than revolvers and semi-automatic pistols and derringers, appropriately concealed, all long guns, of whatever design and purpose, shotgun or rifle, are banned from use under any circumstance other than by Dispensation from the Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in Wisconsin, at any Masonic function and any Grand Lodge Session or Lodge The event, as further set out in subsection two above and
6. There shall be no open carry by anyone at a Grand Lodge Session Lodge Meeting, or within or without a lodge building during any Masonic or Public Event, with the exception of Law Enforcement while in uniform or plain clothes.
7. Individuals exercising their right to carry a concealed weapon upon the property of a Wisconsin Lodge must have a valid Concealed Carry permit from the State of Wisconsin, or from a state which has reciprocity with the State of Wisconsin or permitted under subsection 4 and shall comply with all the rules and regulations of the Laws of State of Wisconsin, to include but not be limited to the carrying upon one's person of said permit and a valid identification card and any other documentation as set forth by the state and Federal law, and,
8. Concealed carry is just that. No handling or exposure of weapons in public is allowed under any circumstances unless deadly force is warranted, other than a training activity under appropriate supervision. Violations of this subsection may be treated as Un-Masonic conduct and may expose the offender to Masonic Trial Code discipline, and,
9. Active Shooter Training for Masonic Lodges is highly recommended as additional information and guidance. Lodges should contact their local police department or sheriff's offices as a possible training source. Every effort to have the local law enforcement conduct the training is strongly recommended.
10. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Reciprocity maps, and other documentation can be found in the Wisconsin Masonic Code Appendix or at the following links:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/>;

<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/dles/ccw/ccw-faq%201-2018.pdf>;

<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/cib.conceal-carry/reciprocity>.

Given under my hand this 12th day of June 2023 at Dousman, Wisconsin.

David R. Ritchie

M.: W.: David R. Ritchie
Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin

Attest:



Michael A. DeWolf

M.: W.: Michael A. DeWolf PGM
Grand Secretary