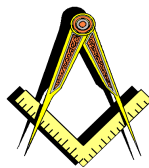




## District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for an  
**Entered Apprentice**



**EA 12**  
**Arriving late and leaving a  
meeting early**

# Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

## *Introduction*

All Brethren attending Lodge meetings, whether to their own Lodge or as a Visitor to another Lodge in the District, should ensure that they arrive in good time before the published time that the Lodge will be tyled. However, it is acknowledged, that on occasion, due to circumstances beyond the control of the Brother concerned he may arrive at the Lodge after the start of the meeting. In such circumstances the following procedures should be followed. These procedures are in accordance with strict Emulation and Taylors Working. Your own Lodge may have their own customs and traditions which you should follow.

## *Arriving late*

When you arrive take care to put on your Regalia and check that you have adjusted it properly, then report to the Tyler. There are only a few opportune times after the Lodge has been opened for the Tyler to attempt to get latecomers into the Temple – the harmony of the Lodge and the well being of any Candidate must be his constant care. The Tyler will give a report on the door of the Lodge at the earliest convenient opportunity on your behalf. Depending on which stage the Lodge business is at you may have to wait a while or until the Lodge is 'Called off'.

## *How to tell which Degree the Lodge is working in*

In strict Emulation the Tyler is instructed in the rubric to give the knocks of the degree that the Lodge is in on the door of the Lodge for Latecomers. As an Entered Apprentice you will only be able to enter the Lodge whilst it is open in the First Degree. Therefore, if the Lodge has been opened in either the Second or Third Degree, the Tyler will instruct you to retire to another room until the Lodge is once again opened in the First Degree. Once you enter the Lodge, as a confirmation, quickly glance to see which Tracing Board is on display.

## *On entering the Lodge*

After the IG has admitted you step onto the carpet; take Sp, give EA Sn and say '*Apologies Worshipful Master*' then discharge the Sn. Note: There is no need to give an explanation for your lateness.

The DC or ADC will pick you up and escort you to a seat. On arrival at your seat, turn and face him and exchange a Court Bow with him then sit.

## *Latecomers to a Lodge working Taylor's workings*

In Lodges that use Taylor's Working there will be some slight differences; The Tyler will announce the Late Comer by one knock on the door of the Lodge. The Inner Guard will ask 'Whom have you there', and the procedure is then the same as the previous paragraphs above.

## *The Attendance Book or Register*

The Attendance Register in some Lodges is retained by the Tyler and in other Lodges is handed by the Tyler to the Lodge Secretary just before the start of the meeting. It is **your** responsibility to make sure you sign (print) your name in the appropriate column of the Attendance Register at the earliest opportunity after arriving at the Lodge and, if a visitor, making sure you enter the name of your sponsoring Member. (Do not assume the Secretary or Tyler will insert it on your behalf).

## *Leaving the Lodge early*

In the unlikely event that you require to leave the Lodge early before the end of the Meeting the following procedure should be adopted.

At an opportune moment during a pause in proceedings, stand and, assuming that you were sitting in the North or South side of the Lodge, face the South or North, take a Sp and show the EA Sn, turn your head to the East and say:

*'Worshipful Master, have I your permission to retire?'*

The WM will give his assent. Discharge the sign and then walk direct (squaring the Lodge if that is your custom) to the North West corner step onto the carpet take a Sp and show the EA Sn, discharge the Sn and retire.