

The Grand Lodge of Texas

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ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Monday, January 26, 2026

DECISION No. 1 - 2026

QUESTION: Is it permissible for the Tiler of a lodge to enter the room and sit in on the meeting once the opening ceremony has been concluded?

DECISION: No. The term *tile* is handed down to us from the stonemasons of the medieval era and is derived from the Latin *tegula*. Masonically, to tile is to seal a building to protect it from intrusion. A tiled meeting cannot be tiled if there is not a Tiler tiling the door. Every officer has a station or a place. The Tiler's place is outside the door. To permit him to enter the lodge room during a tiled meeting would be essentially the same as allowing the Senior Deacon to sit with the Secretary at his desk during the meeting.

The uniform code of bylaws for constituent lodges (Form 23) specifies that the Tiler shall be exempt from the payment of dues. He is not permitted to sit in on or participate in the business of the Lodge, so he is not required to pay dues.

The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas allow for some flexibility if a lodge does not desire to have one of its members missing out on the business of the lodge. Article 265 allows a lodge to appoint a Master Mason from another lodge to serve as tiler. Additionally, Article 221 allows for the payment of a salary to the Tiler for his services.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Rumsey". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a cursive "Rumsey".

Jim Rumsey
Grand Master



Shrine



Scottish Rite



Grotto



Masonic Lodge



Chapter



Council



Commandery

Masons All