



GRAND CHAPTER OF TENNESSEE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

PETITION GUIDELINES 2026 EFFECTIVE — JULY 22, 2026

Jurisprudence Committee Grand Chapter of Tennessee
Laurel Harrison, PGM Chairperson
Shelia Allison, PGM Vice-Chairperson
Beverly Rogers, PGM Secretary - Treasurer

Master Masons

- “Men who are Master Masons in good standing of a regular Lodge of the Masonic Fraternity.”*
- Petition for membership is completed by applicant and signed by two OES members. Appropriate fees and dues are paid.
- Worthy Matron assigns an Investigating Committee who confirms that the Master Mason petitioner is in good standing and then meets with him. The Petition Questionnaire may be used as guide during this meeting.
- The Investigating Committee reports to the Chapter if petition is favorable or unfavorable and chapter votes on the petition.

Female Applicants

- Per General Grand Chapter, there are three categories of female candidates.
 1. “Women who are relatives of past or present Master Masons in good standing of a regular Lodge of the Masonic Fraternity. The necessary relationship is by birth, marriage or adoption.”* The Brother on the Investigating Committee will research the Masonic relationship.
 2. “Women who are majority members of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls or Job’s Daughters or have been active for three (3) years, who have reached the age of 18.”* It is the responsibility of the Investigating Committee to affirm this membership.
 3. “Women who are at least 18 years of age who are sponsored by two members, One Sister and one Brother.”* Two letters of recommendation are to accompany the petition. The two members who make this recommendation cannot sign the petition or be on the Investigating Committee.

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- Petition for membership is completed by applicant and signed by two OES members. Appropriate fees and dues are paid.
- Worthy Matron assigns an Investigating Committee.
- Petitioner completes information for a background check via the Grand Chapter's webpage. Inform the applicant that she will need to have her ID and a credit card for payment. Then she will access the link to Bchex: OESTN.com> More> Important Links> Background Check. Note: If needed, a chapter member can assist the petitioner with this process.
- Background checks normally are completed within a few days and will be emailed to the applicant. The petitioner will bring the background check when she meets with the Investigating Committee who will review it. The only people to review the background check is the investigating committee. The background check is not to be discussed with anyone. The background check is kept by the applicant only and is not a part of the chapter's records. The Chapter does not keep a copy of the background check. The Investigating Committee may use the Petition Questionnaire as a guide during the discussion with the petitioner.
- The Investigating Committee reports to the Chapter that petition is favorable or unfavorable and chapter votes on the petition.

*Wording is taken from General Grand Chapter's website under "Who Can Join".

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