



DISCIPLINARY ACTION OF
THE HOLY ORTHODOX ORDER OF
SAINT GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR

Article One – Disciplinary Sanctions

Members of the Order whose conduct is less than exemplary are subject to the following disciplinary sanctions according to the seriousness of their offense:

- Warning
- Reprimand
- Suspension
- Dismissal

Article Two – Warning and Reprimand

- 2.1 Only the Grand Knight, the Priors of the Grand Priories, and Commandery Officers are permitted to institute disciplinary sanction.
- 2.2 There is no special procedure necessary to warn or reprimand members, however, it is the duty of the official to, in the spirit of Christian love, correct or remind a member of their oath and duty of service towards the Orthodox Church and Her people.

Article Three – Disciplinary Commission

For investigations regarding suspension or dismissal of a member of the Order, a permanent Disciplinary Commission, consisting of four members (one person from each rank of knighthood) assisted by a secretary is to be constituted in each Grand Priory of the Order.

Article Four – Suspension and Dismissal

- 4.1 Suspension is a temporary disciplinary action that may be imposed on a member of the Order:
- a) If a member is found to be in an unworthy or in compromising status.
 - b) If a member is under criminal investigation for grave acts of a moral nature.
- 4.2 Suspensions cannot exceed more than one year.
- 4.3 Dismissal is a definitive disciplinary measure which may be imposed on a member of the Order if:
- a) If a member severely transgresses the aims, obligations, standards of behavior, or integrity of the Order.
 - b) If a member has been found to be associated as a member of Freemasonry and/or any Masonic fraternities.
 - c) If a member has been suspended more than three times in a ten-year period.
- 4.4 In case of dismissal from the Order, no reimbursement or compensation for any monies, gifts or services rendered to the Order will be given or returned to the member.
- 4.5 Only the Grand Knight has the authority to suspend and dismiss a member of the Order. The right to warn and reprimand belongs with the Grand Knight, the Priors, and the Commandery Officers.

Article Five – Disciplinary Procedures

- 5.1 The intention to initiate disciplinary procedures by a Prior or Commandery Officer needs to be communicated by official letter to the Grand Magistracy of the Order through the Office of the Grand Chancellor.
- 5.2 The Grand Chancellor is to review all accusations and pass them onto the Grand Knight with his recommendation of action.
- 5.3 Disciplinary proceedings against an individual cannot begin without the written consent of the Grand Knight (needs to be given within thirty days).
- 5.4 The Grand Knight as the temporal head of the Order has the right to call the case to himself, setting up a special disciplinary commission.
- 5.5 As a precautionary measure, the Grand Knight has the power to suspend or remove from office those in authority who are under disciplinary review.
- 5.6 Justice and mercy is issued in the name of the Grand Knight as Temporal Head.

Article Six – Rights of the Accused

- 6.1 A person who is subject to disciplinary review must be informed by official letter immediately of all accusations against them.

- 6.2 The accused will be given a thirty-day period to prepare a defense to challenge all accusations made against them.
- 6.3 At the end of the thirty-day period the Secretary of the Disciplinary Commission will summon the accused either by person or by video within a period of not less than ten days.
- 6.4 The accused has the right to clerical counsel.
- 6.5 The clerical counsel must be a priest or of higher ecclesiastical rank and know the accused.
- 6.6 The clerical council is permitted to give a witness of character.

Article Seven – Witnesses

- 7.1 Witnesses must be sworn in prior to giving evidence.
- 7.2 Under pain of nullity, the only documentation usable by the Disciplinary Commission are those that pertain to the case.
- 7.3 Discussions of the enquiry are not open to the public.
- 7.4 Absolute secrecy must be maintained by all Judges of the Disciplinary Commission.
- 7.5 The minutes of the hearing are drawn up by the secretary who signs them.

Article Eight - Disciplinary Resolution

- 8.1 At the conclusion of the enquiry, the Disciplinary Commission shall remit the file and their findings to the Grand Knight.
- 8.2 Where the findings of the enquiry merit suspension or dismissal from the Order, the Grand Knight will have ten days to make his ruling or to show clemency.
- 8.3 When a member is dismissed from the Order, they are stripped of all honors, and barred from future membership.

Article Nine – Notification of Resolution

- 9.1 Notification of the disciplinary resolution is conveyed by Sovereign Decree and sent by registered delivery with a notice of receipt.
- 9.2 An official record of the Sovereign Decree having been made must be kept with the archives of the Grand Magistracy of the Order.

Article Ten – Right to Appeal

- 10.1 Within thirty calendar days of notification, a documented appeal in writing signed by the accused is permitted against the disciplinary ruling of the Grand Knight.
- 10.2 The appeal must be sent by registered delivery with a notice of receipt which attests to the date it was sent.
- 10.3 All appeals must be addressed to the Constitution Council of the Order.

- 10.4 The Constitutional Council has sixty days to review the case and to reach a decision. Once the decision is made it is final and irrevocable on all parties.
- 10.5 Those members of the Order found to be associated with Freemasonry and/or any Masonic fraternities do not have right to appeal.