



THE GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS

of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas

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**To: Provincial and District Grand Masters
Provincial and District Grand Secretaries and Secretaries of Unattached Lodges**

Dear Sir and Brother

Correct form of abbreviation of Grand, Provincial & District Grand Ranks

It has been some considerable time since we last issued any guidance on the adopted practice of official abbreviations and rank designations. It is a distinguishing feature of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall that all rank abbreviations are punctuated – a practice which differs from the Craft.

Grand Ranks

Regulation 4(i) in the 2019 edition of the Constitution and Regulations of the Order sets out the table of precedence of Grand Officers together with the abbreviated rank designation in each case. These are the only rank abbreviations to be used and should always be punctuated as shown.

It should be noted also, that when a Brother is promoted in Grand Rank, his previous rank is no longer shown.

Provincial and District Grand Ranks

Displaying Provincial and District Grand Ranks follows the same convention as in Grand Lodge save that the word 'Provincial' or 'District' should precede the equivalent Grand Rank. For example:

Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies CORRECT

Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies INCORRECT

The correct form of abbreviation for Provincial and District Grand Ranks also follows the same convention as in Grand Lodge save that 'Prov.' or 'Dist.' should be added first and for a Past Rank should appear as 'P.Prov.' or 'P.Dist.'. For example:

Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies is abbreviated as Prov.A.G.D.C.

Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies is abbreviated as P.Prov.A.G.D.C.

In some Provinces and Districts, it has become commonplace to adopt a form of abbreviation which distinguishes between those Brethren who held their rank initially as an active appointment. This is unnecessary and should be discouraged.

The common practice of quoting all Provincial and District Grand Ranks held by a Brother does not conform to the established protocol. For example:

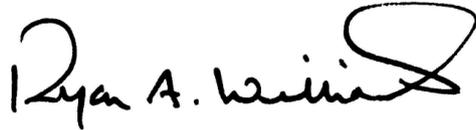
W.Bro. T F Bailey, P.A.G.D.C., P.Prov.G.J.W.(London), Prov.G.S.D.(Warks.)

The correct form would be to quote only the Brother's Grand Rank followed by any Active Provincial Grand Rank(s) he holds (in order of seniority), as follows:

W.Bro. T F Bailey, P.A.G.D.C., Prov.G.S.D.(Warks.)

I do hope that you will find this note useful and that I can rely on your co-operation in ensuring that the above protocols are adopted on summonses, lists of members, letterheads and all other documents on which the names and designations of Grand Officers and Provincial/District Grand Officers appear.

With fraternal regards and best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ryan A. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R" and a decorative flourish at the end.

R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W.
Grand Secretary