

SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS

What is a dispensation?

A dispensation grants an exemption from a rule or requirement, such as the Supreme Statutes, the policies established by the Grand Executive Board, or the By-laws of an Assembly.

Under what circumstances is a Special Dispensation be requested?

According to the Supreme Statutes, no Assembly may transact any business, ballot, or elect Officers except at its regularly scheduled meeting place without first obtaining a Dispensation from the Supreme Officer and paying a \$1 fee to the Grand Jurisdiction. In Nevada, this \$1 fee is waived, because it is impractical to collect such a small fee. (It would cost more than \$1 to write, mail, process, and deposit the check.)

Additionally, the Uniform Code of By-laws for Subordinate Assemblies indicates that all regular meetings must be held on weekdays or nights, unless permitted by a Special Dispensation from the Supreme Officer.

Additionally, Special Dispensations should be requested for the following:

- Holding a meeting on day, at a time, or in a location other than the regularly scheduled meeting date, time, and location (generally included in the Assembly's By-laws)
- Balloting and initiating in the same night (reserved for girls promoting from Pledge to Rainbow or from known Rainbow families)
- Conducting an informal meeting, such as an Open Meeting
- Allowing members to deviate from the Clothing Guidelines during a regularly scheduled meeting, such as wearing costumes specific to the theme of the meeting or for Halloween
- Cancelling a meeting due to the lack of a quorum or due to inclement weather (blizzard, flooding, fire, etc.)
- Holding elections on a schedule other than that established in Statute (4 month terms: the first meeting in January, May, and September; 6 month terms: on the schedule approved by the Supreme Officer)

There may be other situations for which a Special Dispensation would be necessary. If a situation arises that appears to deviate from the Statutes, policies, or By-laws, the Supreme Officer should be contacted to determine if a dispensation is appropriate.

Note: Special Dispensations are not required for Official Visits or for an Assembly meeting that is cancelled due to Grand Assembly. Because these events are part of the Grand Calendar, they are expected to occur.

Who may request a Special Dispensation?

In Nevada, the Grand Deputy is responsible for contacting the Supreme Officer to request a Special Dispensation. If the Grand Deputy is unable to make the request (due to travel, for example), the Mother Advisor may do so; however, under ordinary circumstances this is NOT the Mother Advisor's responsibility.

When and how should a Special Dispensation be requested?

Because a Special Dispensation grants permission, it should be requested before the deviation occurs. (Please ask permission, rather than forgiveness! It is the right thing to do, and it sets a much better example for our girls.) A Grand Deputy may request Special Dispensations prior to the start of each term, once the Advisory Board has approved the term calendar.

Occasionally, it is impossible to predict the need for a Special Dispensation, such as a no quorum meeting or a weather emergency. In these instances, the Grand Deputy should contact the Supreme Officer within 24 hours of the meeting to request the Special Dispensation.

Requesting a Special Dispensation is easy. The Grand Deputy should send an email to the Supreme Officer requesting the dispensation. The message should include the date of the meeting effected and the reason for the requested exemption.

What is done with Special Dispensation?

The Supreme Officer transmit the Special Dispensation to the Grand Deputy, either by mail or in person. The dispensation should then be placed in the Assembly's Minute Book, attached to the minutes of the corresponding meeting.