

# Masonic Senior Outreach Services (MSOS)

Guide for lodge leaders



# What is MSOS?

Masonic Senior Outreach Services (MSOS) offers **free** assistance to Masons and their wives or widows, age 60 and older, connecting them with services and resources to stay healthy and safe at home or in their home communities.

DOWNLOAD: [freemason.org](http://freemason.org)> Member Center> Member Resources> [Masonic Senior Outreach.pdf](#)



# Overview of services

- Information and referrals to community-based senior services and resources
- Financial assistance and care plan, for those who need financial support
- Ongoing care management, including regular visits and telephone contact, to assess the client's financial situation and health or medical condition



# Eligibility

For all services, the individual must be age 60 or older.

- **Even without a Masonic affiliation:** May receive information and referrals by calling 888/466-3642.
- **California Master Mason in good standing, or his wife, widow, or mother:** May also apply for case management.
- **California Master Mason in good standing for five consecutive years or more, or his wife or widow (or in extraordinary circumstances, mother):** In addition to above services, may be eligible for financial support.



# Examples of support

**Information and referrals** to community-based senior services and resources, such as

- Housekeepers
- Transportation resources
- Senior legal services
- Senior programs

**Ongoing care management** at no cost for those who face isolation, loss of a spouse, or declining health

- An MSOS care manager maintains a regular schedule of visits and telephone contact.



# Examples of support

## **Financial assistance and care plan**

- The amount of support is determined by the client's need and will change as his or her needs change.
- Support is available as long as the client's situation requires it and eligibility is maintained.
- In establishing a client's budget, MSOS considers public benefits, as well as family and lodge resources. and support that is available from family and the lodge. There is no minimum or maximum amount of financial support.
- The client agrees to repay all or a portion of the amount expended when assistance ends, if s/he has the financial means to do so.



# Examples of support

## **If care needs can no longer be safely met in the home**

- MSOS will help locate a care facility in the client's community and will supplement the cost of care.
- Those who require 24-hour skilled care will receive assistance with their MediCal application.
- Interim financial and care support will be provided to those on the waiting list for the Masonic Homes of California at Covina and Union City.



# How can my lodge help?

## **Reach out to elder members and widows,** especially

- Those with physical and/or financial challenges
- Those who do not come to lodge

## **Maintain regular contact via**

- Home visits
- Special lodge events, such as sweetheart dinners
- Quarterly phone calls\* from your lodge's Outreach Committee
- Yearly letter reminding members of support services
- Birthday, holiday, and “thinking of you” correspondence

**Our lodges are our fraternal safety net.** For more outreach ideas, call Masonic Assistance at 888/466-3642.

\***DOWNLOAD:** [freemason.org](http://freemason.org)> Member Center> Member Resources> [Phone script: Senior Outreach.pdf](#)





# Lodge outreach visits

## Print and consult this checklist for fraternal family members

- Does the member seem alert and lucid?
- Is the member's general hygiene and appearance good?
- Does the member's home/yard appear maintained and clean?
- Can the member move around the home safely?
- Is the member living in a "safe" environment or area?
- Does the member have a sufficient food supply on hand?
- Is the member able to get to doctor visits and meet his/her medical needs?
- Can the member drive safely?
- Does the member have the financial resources to meet his/her needs?
- Does the member have a support system of friends or family?

If the answer is "no" to any of the above, contact Masonic Assistance at 888/466-3642 or [intake@mhcuc.org](mailto:intake@mhcuc.org).

Outreach staff will work with you to ensure that the member gains access to the support services necessary for health and safety.

**DOWNLOAD:** [freemason.org](http://freemason.org)> Member Center> Member Resources> [Checklist for outreach visits.pdf](#)



# When a fraternal family member needs assistance

- **Encourage the member to call** Masonic Assistance at 888/466-3642, or call on his/her behalf.
- **Stay in touch with the member** throughout the intake process. He or she may need reassurance or assistance gathering documents. The lodge can act as a liaison between Masonic Assistance staff and the member.
- **Make sure the member completes** the intake process. Periodically check in with Masonic Assistance staff on the progress of the application.
- **Notify your lodge's master and secretary** so they may evaluate lodge outreach practices and plan proper follow-up.



# After contacting MSOS

**Once the intake call is complete, the fraternal family member**

- Will be provided information about community-based resources
- Will be informed about any available Masonic support services
- May be mailed initial paperwork for an application to the Masonic Homes or MSOS
- Can receive MSOS support while on the wait list for the Masonic Home at Covina or Union City

The average application process lasts one to three months, with the exception of emergency circumstances.

During this time, the lodge should stay in close contact with the member to provide assistance and outreach.



# Questions about repayment

Repayment helps continue Masonic Assistance support for future Masons, wives, widows, and mothers in need.

- Repayment is expected when clients have the assets to do so.
- When repayment is possible, these funds are returned to Masonic Assistance to serve other members in need.
- Repayment is received only for the amount of support provided, or less. (MSOS does not charge interest.)
- No client is turned away due to an inability to repay the program. If a client passes away and has no assets to repay the Masonic Assistance “debt,” that debt is forgiven.



# MSOS resources for lodges

## Visit freemason.org

- Select the Member Center pull-down
- Click on Member Resources

## Download

- [Checklist for outreach visits.pdf](#)
- [Phone script: Senior Outreach.pdf](#)
- Informational flyer: [Masonic Senior Outreach.pdf](#)
- [Member Benefits: Letter from the Master.doc](#)



# For more information

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