



# The Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas



## DISTRICT GRAND COUNCIL OF WEST YORKSHIRE

### ABBREVIATIONS OF GRAND RANKS AND CORRESPONDING DISTRICT GRAND RANKS

*(Please note that Rank abbreviations differ from the Craft convention. See notes overleaf.)*

*(Please also note that where the order of precedence of District Officers differs from Grand, the District Rank has been inserted in the correct position to maintain the District order of precedence).*

Grand Rank	Title	Official Abbreviation	Official Abbreviation of 'Acting' District Grand Rank/Office
Grand Master	M.III.Comp.	G.M.	
Pro Grand Master	M.III.Comp.	Pro.G.M.	
Deputy Grand Master	R.III.Comp.	Dep.G.M.	
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work	R.III.Comp.	G.P.C.W.	
Custodians of the Ninth Arch	R.III.Comp.	IX	
District Grand Master*	R.III.Comp.	Dist.G.M.	
		<b>Deputy District Grand Master</b>	Dep.Dist.G.M.
		<b>District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work</b>	Dist.G.P.C.W.
Grand Chancellor	R.III.Comp.	G.Chan.	-
Grand Councillor	R.III.Comp.	G.Coun.	-
Grand Inspector	V.III.Comp.	G.Insp.	-
Grand Chaplain	V.III.Comp.	G.Chap.	Dist.G.Chap.
Grand Treasurer	V.III.Comp.	G.Treas.	Dist.G.Treas.
President of the Executive Committee	V.III.Comp.	Pres.E.C.	-
Grand Recorder	V.III.Comp.	G.Rec.	Dist.G.Rec.
Grand Director of Ceremonies	V.III.Comp.	G.D.C.	Dist.G.D.C.
Grand Lecturer	V.III.Comp.	G.Lect.	Dist.G.Lect.
Deputy Grand Chaplain		Dep.G.Chap.	-
Deputy Grand Recorder		Dep.G.Rec.	-
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies		Dep.G.D.C.	Dist.Dep.G.D.C.
Grand Captain of the Guard		G.Capt.Gd.	Dist.G.Capt.Gd.
Grand Conductor of the Council		G.Cond.C.	Dist.G.Cond.C.
Assistant Grand Chaplain		A.G.Chap.	-
Assistant Grand Recorder		A.G.Rec.	-
Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies		A.G.D.C.	Dist.A.G.D.C.
Grand Sword Bearer		G.Swd.B.	Dist.G.Swd.B.
Grand Standard Bearer		G.St.B.	Dist.G.St.B.
		<b>District Assistant Grand Recorder</b>	Dist.A.G.Rec.
Grand Organist		G.Org.	Dist.G.Org.
Deputy Grand Organist		D.G.Org.	-
Grand Steward		G.Stwd.	Dist.G.Stwd.
Grand Manciple		G.Man.	Dist.G.Man.
-		<b>District Grand Almoner**</b>	Dist.G.Alm.
Grand Sentinel		G.Sent.	Dist.G.Sent.

\* NB, District Grand Master is a Grand Rank rather than a District Rank

\*\* Districts with more than 6 but less than 10 Councils can either have three Dist.G.Manciples or two Dist.G.Manciples plus one Dist.G.Almoner.

#### Notes - Grand and District Grand Ranks:

- In all Orders administered by Mark Masons Hall, 'full stops' are used as punctuation between, and at the end of, every element of an abbreviated Rank title. I.e., Dist.G.Org. rather than DGOrg.
- Please also note that for District ranks, '**District**' simply precedes the equivalent Grand Rank title. I.e., 'District Assistant Grand Recorder' rather than 'Assistant District Grand Recorder'. The only exception is the Deputy District Grand Master.
- In the list above, Ranks are listed in order of precedence of Grand Rank. Where necessary, the District Grand Offices of **Deputy District Grand Master, District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, District Assistant Grand Recorder and District Grand Almoner\*\***, (\*\*not used in West Yorkshire), have been inserted to maintain their correct District order of precedence.
- When listing a Companion's Rank in the Order of Royal and Select Masters, if a Companion has already been appointed to Grand Rank, no District Grand Rank should be appended, unless at the point in question they hold a current **Active** District Grand Rank.

#### Notes – District Grand Ranks:

- When appointed to an **Active** District Grand Rank the abbreviation used is 'Dist.G.', e.g., Dist.G.St.B., not D.G.St.B.
- Either on relinquishing an **Active** District Grand Rank or when a Companion is appointed or promoted to a **Past** District Grand Rank, 'P.' will be placed in front of 'Dist.G.', i.e. 'P.Dist.G.', e.g., P.Dist.G.St.B., P.Dist.G.Lect., etc. There is therefore no difference between a 'Past' **Active** Officer and a First Appointment to Past District Grand Rank.
- Neither does a former **Active** Officer take precedence over a Past Rank appointee of the same Rank, precedence being set only by their date of appointment to that Rank, (i.e., irrespective of whether their appointment was initially to an Active or to a Past Rank).
- A current **Active** Officer can only take precedence over Officers of the same Past Rank.

Issued in accordance with guidance received from the Grand Recorder dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020, (enc.)



## THE GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS

of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas

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12 June 2020

**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:

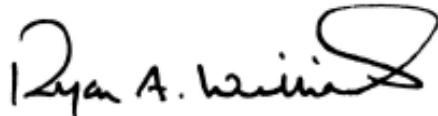
*W.Bro. T F Bailey, P.A.G.D.C., P.Prov.G.J.W.(London), Prov.G.S.D.(Warks.)*

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, stylized initial "R" and "W".

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