

# Dues Relief Status Policy and Procedures of The Order of the Daughters of the King®

## Outline

- I. Overview
  - a. Background
  - b. Bylaw
  - c. Implementation
- II. Guidelines for Applying for Dues Relief Status
- III. Procedures for Chapters Seeking Dues Relief for a Daughter
  - a. Overview
  - b. Applying for Dues Relief Status
- IV. Granting of Dues Relief Status
  - a. Approval of Dues Relief Status
  - b. Term of Dues Relief Status
  - c. Removal of Dues Relief Status

## **I. Overview**

### **a. Background**

As members of The Order of the Daughters of the King®, one of the responsibilities of membership is payment of our annual dues. At some point in life, that responsibility may become more difficult due to deteriorating health. The Order is a community of women who desire to support one another in love in all of life's circumstances and, as such, some chapters have lovingly paid the dues for senior members who were no longer able to function as an active member of a chapter due to declining health or other serious situation. When chapters and family members could no longer manage this gift, these Daughters became inactive and were dropped from the rolls or felt compelled to resign from The Order and return their cross. Many Daughters did not believe this to be an appropriate solution as it disconnected women from the love and support of their sisters around the world.

In 2012, a bylaw change was proposed and passed that provided the option for Dues Relief status. This bylaw was intended to relieve the chapter (and family members) from paying dues for Daughters 85 years of age or older who are in deteriorating health. The chapter can submit a request for her to be exempt from all future dues but still be listed as a Daughter. Once exempt under this bylaw, the Daughter would no longer be eligible for office, to be a delegate, and would have to subscribe to receive *The Royal Cross*.

This status was intended to assist those in serious health decline who without dues relief would resign from The Order or no longer be a recognized as a current member. The status was and is not intended as an automatic pass for any member 85 years or older who can still participate as a member of The Order and remain current in her dues.

## **Dues Relief Status Policy and Procedures of The Order of the Daughters of the King®**

### **b. Bylaw – Article III, Section 6, F. Chapter Relief Status**

Upon reaching the age of 85 a Daughter may apply through her chapter or diocesan assembly president for relief of the obligation to pay dues. Upon approval of her application she would be relieved from paying annual dues for the remainder of her life.

### **c. Implementation**

In 2012, an application was developed and procedures implemented that fulfilled the intent of the bylaw as passed. This document formalizes the policy and procedures approved by the National Council of The Order.

This policy:

- Provides guidelines for when chapter (or diocesan assembly) president may apply for Dues Relief Status on behalf of a Daughter
- Establishes the procedures a chapter (or diocesan assembly) president must take to apply for Dues Relief Status on behalf of a Daughter
- Clarifies the outcome of being granted Dues Relief Status

The National Membership Chair, in coordination with the National Office Manager, is responsible for managing and administering this policy and, when appropriate, granting Dues Relief Status.

## **II. Guidelines for Applying for Dues Relief Status**

Upon learning of a Daughter that may need to be granted Dues Relief Status, the chapter president, keeping strict confidence, verifies the Daughter meets the following prerequisites:

- Is 85 years old or older
- Is in deteriorating health (e.g. has been diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease)
- Is current in the payment of her dues
- Is unable to pay her dues herself and the chapter or family is unable to do so on her behalf

For Daughters at Large, the diocesan assembly or provincial assembly president serves in the role of the chapter president.

## **III. Procedures for Chapters Seeking Dues Relief Status for a Daughter**

### **a. Overview**

Before choosing to apply for Dues Relief Status, serious consideration must be given to the individual Daughter's situation. Once Dues Relief Status is granted, the Daughter, while relieved of paying dues, will be ineligible for certain duties outlined below and will not receive *The Royal Cross* as part of her membership. Therefore, only Daughters who are in seriously deteriorating health situations should be considered for Dues Relief Status.

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The Order of the Daughters of the King®**

**b. Applying for Dues Relief Status**

The chapter president of a Daughter meeting the prerequisites identified above may apply for Dues Relief Status by completing the Application for Dues Relief Status including obtaining the clergy signature. This application is available on the National DOK website and, once completed, is submitted to the National Office for processing. The application will be reviewed and approved by the National Membership Chair and an informational copy provided to the Provincial Assembly President.

**IV. Granting of Dues Relief Status**

**a. Approved Dues Relief Status**

When a Daughter is granted Dues Relief Status, she will:

- be relieved from paying national, provincial, and diocesan assembly dues for the remainder of her life
- no longer be eligible to serve as a delegate at Triennial
- no longer be eligible to hold an office within The Order
- no longer receive *The Royal Cross* magazine as part of her membership (Chapters or family members may pay separately for an annual subscription to the magazine.)

**b. Term of Dues Relief Status**

Once granted Dues Relief Status, a Daughter will maintain that status and its benefits and restrictions per this policy.

**c. Removal of Dues Relief Status**

If a Daughter applied for and was granted Dues Relief Status prematurely, she may notify her chapter president and the National Office of her intent to continue paying full annual dues. Upon receipt of her dues at the National Office the Dues Relief Status will be removed. If necessary, the Daughter would need to reapply through her chapter president to regain the Dues Relief Status.

**This Policy is effective as of:**

**November 11, 2018**

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**This Policy was approved by:**

**The National Council of The Order of the Daughters of the King®**

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