

POLICY CONCERNING APPLICATIONS ON BEHALF OF NEWLY ENROLLED BROTHERS & THEIR DEPENDANTS

Rule 1 of the Catenian Association states that membership is “open to Catholic laymen and permanent deacons over the age of 18 years who on enrolment have the capacity to discharge the Obligations of Membership”. The President’s words to the candidate at his enrolment include, “should a Brother suffer misfortune, our concern is to aid him in full measure.”

The paragraph above suggests that a brother should be in a reasonably stable financial position on enrolment, not necessarily wealthy but able to cope, and that should he suffer misfortune after enrolment his brothers and the Association, including the Benevolent Fund, will support him in full measure.

From time to time, the Trustees receive applications on behalf of brothers who have recently enrolled, sometimes only a few months before making the application.

It is quite feasible for a brother or his dependants to suffer some misfortune soon after enrolment but which could not be foreseen at the time of enrolment. For this reason, the Trustees consider that access to the Fund should continue to be available to all brothers on enrolment.

However, it can be seen in some applications that the financial difficulties giving rise to an application for help existed or could reasonably be foreseen before the brother’s enrolment. In these circumstances, the Trustees will normally consider the application to be out of scope.

Adopted by the Trustees on 16th January 2024

Amended by the Trustees on 20th January 2026