

SUCCESSION:

1. "OLD PLAN": Primary Members enrolled in either The National Society Magna Charta or The Somerset Chapter Magna Charta Barons, PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1971, may name one Successor (sometimes called "Hereditary Member" - term interchangeable and is one and the same person), whose enrollments run con-currently, - both are members for LIFE. The aforesaid Successor must be a close relative, either male or female, on the SAME LINE OF DESCENT THAT WAS USED BY THE PRIMARY MEMBER TO ENTER THE SOCIETY, and the naming of the Successor must be in writing on file with "National" prior to the death of the Primary Member. (This is to avoid confusion and misunderstanding.) We regret that adopted relatives are not eligible for succession unless the person is an actual blood relative of the member ON THE SAME LINE OF DESCENT USED BY THE PRIMARY MEMBER FOR ENROLLMENT in the Society. Once a Successor is named, there can be no change except in a very rare situation which must be approved by the Council. (The only changes which have ever been permitted regarding this has been in the event of some tragedy when the Successor did not have an opportunity to become an "active" member; or perhaps due to a situation was explained to the Council in confidence and permission for the change was granted). It is there-fore very important that due consideration be given to the naming of a Successor. Merely putting the information in one's Will does not constitute ample reason for such to be honored by the Society, as the deceased may have forgotten that someone else was previously named, and only one person may be named as Successor. Likewise, the informing of a local chapter or Division of one's Successor, is not acceptable for the reason. (We cannot have duplication). We cannot accept the "impression" of a relative that he or she was named as Successor unless we have it as a matter of record in writing by the Primary Member at "National" before the death of the Primary Member. Upon the death of the Primary Member, the Society should be notified, please, and the Successor is then promoted to become an "Hereditary Primary" Member and at that time, he or she may in turn name a Successor in accordance with the above in this paragraph, and so on. THIS IS KNOVN AS "OLD PLAN", and because the Primary Member entered the Society under these terms, we naturally would honor the agreement.
2. "NEW PLAN": Primary Members enrolled in either Society AFTER JANUARY 1, 1971 may name one Successor (Hereditary) Member. Both are members for LIFE WITHOUT FURTHER SUCCESSION. The Successor must be duly named in writing and recorded at "National" prior to the death of the Primary Member, etc. - the same details as above but WITHOUT CONTINUED SUCCESSION. THIS IS KNOWN AS "NEW PLAN". (We regret that this policy as of January 1, 1971 had to be adopted, but due to the rising cost of everything and the fact that under the "old Plan" the cost of "carrying" the continued succession became impossible since we have no "dues" for "National" (beyond the original enrollment fee paid by the Primary Member). All new enrollments after January 1, 1971 are under "New Plan." If future generations wish to be enrolled (using the same lineage as a member who is a relative) those candidates may of course be proposed for membership and by paying the regular enrollment fee would be eligible for membership in either Society.