

This note is one of a series placed in the Clerks' Almanac by a past chairman of the Livery Committee, of whom you may read more at the foot of the [Contact page](#). They are intended to be of guidance to livery clerks, especially new ones, or those seeking advice on a particular topic. They are not prescriptive, and how individual companies choose to conduct their affairs is, of course, entirely up to them.

### **Lord Mayor *locum tenens* (LMLT)**

The Collins English dictionary definition of *locum tenens* is a person who stands in temporarily for another member of the same profession, esp for a physician, or clergyman. Often shortened to: locum

But in the City it is used in full to describe the Lord Mayor *locum tenens*. The Mansion House is jealous to protect the rules as to when an LMLT is nominated to stand in for the LM, but he/she will always be a senior alderman past the chair.

I can find no reference to LMLTs at the City of London or Mansion House (MH) websites, but it is generally accepted that an LMLT will only be nominated to take the place of the LM when the incumbent is abroad (or maybe is just on duty outside London), **and** an invitation has already been accepted by the LM before it was known that he was to be overseas.

What is certain is that there can never be two LMs (ie one LM and one LMLT) in the City at the same time.

Should the need for an LMLT be deemed appropriate by MH, then it is they who will decide who that alderman is to be, NOT the hosting organisation/livery. However, if the host livery wishes a particular alderman, they should phrase their "request" most delicately, and not give any impression that it is a done deal (eg they've already invited Alderman Sir so & so). However, if a senior alderman has a particular connection with the host company, then this will probably already have been picked up by MH.

What is even more opaque are the rules concerning a Representative Lord Mayor. Once again, this is in the gift of the MH, but here the overseas rule does not apply, and it may be someone other than a past LM (eg a sheriff).

Part of the reason why this can be a sensitive matter at MH is that an LMLT has the same rights and privileges as the actual LM. This means such things as having his speech written, a chauffeur, a duty esquire in attendance etc etc, all of which have a cost, in staff time and money.

On a related matter, not many years ago the correct pronunciation of the words *locum tenens* were called into question, and someone started asserting that it should be correctly Tea Nens. Research amongst classicists quickly made clear this was just plain wrong, and the correct Locum (low) tenens (10) is now back in use.

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### *LMLT - Allocution thereof*

This is a confusing area, but perhaps one not to be overly exercised about! Ditto re Representative LM. However:

*Debretts Correct Form*, p183 explains that all LMs are Worshipful, **except, explicitly, London**, Westminster and York who are styled *the Right Honourable* "since time immemorial". (more recently also Cardiff and Belfast by grant of the Sovereign).

So far so good. Turning to p184, the heading is *Deputy Lord Mayor*.

"The rules for addressing a Lord Mayor apply, except that he or she is styled **neither** Right Honourable **nor** Right Worshipful, and the verbal address is [simply] *Deputy Lord Mayor*"

It goes on:

"There is no Deputy Lord Mayor of [the City of] London. An alderman deputising for the Lord Mayor of London is styled Lord Mayor *locum tenens*." Para ends.

Whilst it does not explicitly repeat that thus LMLT are styled **neither Right Honourable nor Right Worshipful** it would seem a very logical deduction, and has the happy added benefit of neatly ducking the argument *Honourable or Worshipful?* And a further attraction of reducing or maintaining the word count: either "The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor" (when LM present), OR The Lord Mayor Locum Tenens" (when an aldermen LMLT substitutes).

The logical **verbal** deduction would then be *Lord Mayor locum tenens*, but as strongly suggested only a minimum usage.

There is a school of thought that says LMLT should be correctly addressed as Right Worshipful. As is clear from the above – this writer does not agree!

PS My research in writing this has revealed the fact that the rank Lieutenant (I was one once!) is a direct derivation, via the French, from the same two words – locum & tenens.

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Was this note helpful? Do you have comment? Email [nrpullman@btinternet.com](mailto:nrpullman@btinternet.com)