**NOTICE OF INTENT**

**To be considered as a Candidate for Clan *MacDubhsith* Commander**

The Presidents of the following national Clan Societies have formed a Council of Presidents and have petitioned and been approved by the Lord Lyon King of Arms to convene a Family Convention in order to select by strong consensus a nominee for Commander. The Lord Lyon has appointed Professor Gillian Black, Carrick Pursuivant, Supervising Officer of the Court for monitoring the process of choosing a Commander and to report back to the Court.

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| MacDuffee Clan Society of America | Clan MacFie Society (UK) |
| Macfie Clan Society in Canada | MacFie Clan Society of America |
| Thorburn-Macfie Family Society Sweden | Clan McPhee Society of New Zealand |
| Macfie Clan Society of Australia | Co-Opted Finlay McFee, Treasurer |

**Please note** that membership in any of the above Societies is not a requirement for participation. The process is more inclusive in that individuals with an eligible surname by birth, marriage or a legal name-change may participate (see Note 1). In the past only a select group of armigers could take part in important decision making, but recent Lords Lyon have made the process more egalitarian.

The Council is addressing the task of seeking qualified self-nominated candidates for the position of Commander for Clan *MacDubhsith,* worldwide.

We invite people of the name (Note 1) who wish to be considered as a nominee for Commander to complete the *Notice of Intent* and submit it to the Council of Presidents. These submissions will be examined by the Council and those applicants who meet theselection criteria will be invited to present their credentials for consideration to eligible Clan members, who will determine their success as a candidate, attending the Family Convention (Note 2). This is planned to be held in Scotland in May 2026. Candidates are expected to attend in person. Clan members may attend in person or virtually to maximize their access and participation.

The selection of a candidate will be by a strong consensus of Clan members and that candidate’s name will be submitted to the Council’s Supervising Officer for presentation to the Lord Lyon. Final selection will not be made by a simple majority vote; rather it will need to demonstrate a strong consensus by Clan members worldwide.

The selection of a Commander will affect the Clan for many years since this position is expected to identify an existing Chief or propose a new Chiefly line. It is critical to select the most qualified person to undertake this task.

Therefore, the Council requests to review as much about each candidate as may be relevant to the selection process. The Council may request further information to clarify credentials. As far as is practical, all private information will be kept confidential. However, in order for Clan members to be able to make an informed choice the Council encourages each candidate to complete the following form as honestly and openly as possible. If there is any information that you supply to the Council that you believe should be kept confidential, please identify the information on the form.

If an applicant reaches the Commander candidate shortlist, the Council reserves the right to carry out confidential Identity Checks, Criminal Records Checks and a review of Records Proofs. We may ask applicants to provide further information, or send additional documentation. This will be treated confidentially and returned or discarded securely after the process is over. Submission of false information will result in disqualification.

This process is to comply with the *Guidance Note, Chiefs of Clans and Families, Succession of Chiefs, Family Conventions and Nomination of Heir* issued by the Court of the Lord Lyon on 16th December 2021 (Note 3).

Please refer to the Notes later in this document for further information.

All responses will be kept confidential within the Council of Presidents so as to assure the applicants’ privacy. If an applicant is successful in becoming a possible candidate all necessary information for an informed choice will be given to Clan members with the individual’s permission.

Please address questions that you may have about this process or send your completed Notice of Intent form by 30 November 2025 to:

[*clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com*](mailto:clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com)

**Please complete this as fully as possible.**

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| --- | --- |
| Full name: |  |
| House/Apartment No |  |
| Street |  |
| Village, Town or City |  |
| Region, State, Province or County |  |
| Country |  |
| *Full postal address if different to street address* | |
| House/Apartment No |  |
| Street |  |
| Village, Town or City |  |
| Region, State, Province or County |  |
| Country |  |
| Telephone no |  |
| Email |  |
| Web page (if any) |  |

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| ***Why we are asking if you have had any Y-DNA testing:***  This is not intended to be exclusionary, and is **not compulsory**. But it will help the Council increase the number of known lineages and Y-Haplogroups. See attached SUMMARY ON Y-DNA TESTS.  If you have taken a Big Y-700 DNA test at Family Tree DNA (www.ftdna.com) please list here:  Your FTDNA Kit Number:  Your FTDNA Password:  Your Y-DNA Haplogroup: | | | |
| If you have not yet taken a Y-DNA test, would you or a close male relative be willing to so? | | | |
| Yes |  | No |  |
| If yes, when you have the results, would you please submit the following data to the Council of Presidents *(**[clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com](mailto:clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com)* ):  your FTDNA Kit Number:  Your FTDNA Password:  Your Y-DNA Haplogroup: | | | |
| If you intend to take the Y-DNA test later, would you be willing to submit the results in order to advance your application to be Clan Commander? (See Summary on Y-DNA Testing at the end of this document) | | | |
| Yes |  | No |  |

**GENEALOGICAL CLAIM TO CHIEFSHIP**

**Please complete this as fully as possible.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you think that you might have a genealogical claim to Chief of Clan *MacDubhsith*? | | | | | |
| Yes |  | No |  | Maybe |  |
| If yes or maybe, would you like to be considered as Commander in the first instance? | | | | | |
| Yes |  | No |  | Maybe |  |
| If yes or maybe, please send full documentation with proofs in addition to completing this form | | | | | |

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| FULL NAME |  |
| COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE |  |
| BRIEF BIOGRAPHY (No more than 300 words) Include qualifications, experience and expertise that you believe that you have, especially in relation to managing an international Clan which has important links with Scotland. | |
|  | |
| What clan or family organisation(s) are you a member of, if any? (Note 4) | |
|  | |
| What roles or offices do you currently hold or have held in any clan or family society, if any? (Note 5) | |
|  | |
| Can you tell us the number and location of games, gatherings etc. that you have attended? (Note 6) | |
|  | |
| Why do you wish to become Clan Commander? | |
|  | |
|  | |
| What relevant skills will you bring to the role of Clan Commander? | |
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| One of the main tasks will be to work towards identifying a suitable Chief. How would you approach this? | |
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|  | |
| Please outline your plan, in brief, for fulfilling the role of Clan Commander (no more than 250 words) | |
|  | |
| Please tell us the name of your earliest proven and documented paternal *MacDubhsith,* MacDuffie, Macfie/MacPhee ancestor. (Name, dates, place, type of proof)  Please note: online Family Trees are not acceptable proof unless there is documentation such as birth certificates and other proof of quality evidence for every step.  Please attach copies of proofs as separate document(s). They will be kept confidential. | |
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| THE COUNCIL PLANS TO CONVENE A FAMILY CONVENTION IN SCOTLAND IN MAY, 2026. All qualified candidates will be notified of the date and location in good time. |

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| Are you willing to attend the Family Convention in person. |
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| If “no”, is there a reason we should be aware of? |
|  |
| Are you an armiger (bearer of a personal Coat of Arms and/or other Armorial Bearings issued by the Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland, or another Heraldic Authority)? (Note 7) |
| Heraldic Authority |
|  |
| Register No. e.g. Year, Volume, Page |
|  |

| NOTES: |  |
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| 1 | Please refer to the document: *Choice of a Clan Name and Eligible Surnames* ([*https://www.clannameandcommandersearch.com/*](https://www.clannameandcommandersearch.com/commander)) which covers eligible surnames for participation in selection of a Commander and Clan name. |
| 2 | Family Convention is currently planned for May 2026. Attendance may be virtual or in person. |
| 3 | Please reference Guidance Note as issued by the Lord Lyon 16 December 2021 at ([*https://www.clannameandcommandersearch.com/*](https://www.clannameandcommandersearch.com/)) |
| 4 | Membership of any particular Membership Group is not mandatory, nor is holding or having held office in any such organisation. |
| 5 | This is not mandatory, but may show an understanding of how such organizations function. |
| 6 | Again, this is not a mandatory but the Candidate should display an understanding of such events, the role of the International Clan, National Societies and Family groups in attending Scottish gatherings. It also demonstrates a willingness to undertake the potential considerable travel involved, and to be able to devote the appropriate time, resources and commitment necessary. |
| 7 | Being an Armiger is not required. However, it does demonstrate some knowledge of Heraldry |

**Summary On Y-DNA Tests which are not obligatory**

Collecting Y-DNA information is important for the Clan Societies. It helps identify lineages and geographical origins which other members can use to illuminate their own ancestries.

The only company which offers stand-alone Y-DNA testing is Family Tree DNA (www.ftdna.com).

The most complete and meaningful test is Big Y-700 which gives the best-defined haplogroup result.

If you have taken such a test, we ask that you provide your Kit No. and Haplogroup.

If you have previously taken a less defined test (for example, 37-marker, 67-marker or 111-marker) this can be upgraded at a lower cost to Big Y-700.

To order a new test – go to www.ftdna.com and click on Y-DNA. Typically, this costs around US $399, but there are regular Sales and Promotions with reduced prices.

To order an Upgrade, log in to www.ftdna.com with your Kit No. and Password, then look for Upgrade.

Females cannot submit a sample for Y-DNA testing, so please ask a close agnatic relative (father, brother, uncle or cousin on the father’s side)

**Privacy**

If you have concerns about the privacy of your results, it is possible to take the test semi-anonymously.

You could, for example, set up a separate free email address and use it for this purpose only.

When your test kit arrives, you may choose not to tick the box saying “Make my results available” (or similar) in which case the details will not appear on FTDNA’s public databases (but also, you will not be able to search for Matches to your Y-DNA). You can choose to change this later.

**DNA Project Groups**

If you have not already done so, please consider joining the appropriate Surname Projects. These are free of charge. You can see these after you log in by looking in Group Projects.

*Suggestions:*

McDuffie (https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/mcduff/about) – confused with McDuff and Duffy

Scotlands DNA (https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/scottishdna/about)

Haplogroup – various, depending on your Y-DNA test results

Geographical – depending on where you live or originated from

**Timescales**

It can take a few weeks for these test kit to arrive, be mailed back, get tested, and your results sent to you.

If you would like to send in this Notice of Intent, and submit your Y-DNA results later, please indicate this when you submit your completed Notice of Intent.