

**BYLAWS OF THE
CHILDREN'S LAW SECTION
OF THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND PURPOSES**

SECTION 1. This Section shall be known as the Children's Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan and shall concern itself with all aspects of law, legislation and policy concerning children.

**ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1. Each member of the Section shall pay annual dues of forty – (**\$40.00**) dollars. Any member of the State Bar of Michigan upon request to the Executive Director and upon payment of dues for the current fiscal year (October 1 - September 30) shall be enrolled as a member of the Section. Thereafter the annual Section dues shall be paid in advance each year with annual bar dues. Members so enrolled and whose dues are so paid shall constitute the membership of the Section. Any member of the Section whose annual dues shall be more than six (6) months past due shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Section.

SECTION 2. Newly admitted members of the State Bar of Michigan, upon written request, shall become members of the Section for the balance of the fiscal year in which application is made, without payment of dues to the Section, if such written request is made to the State Bar during the first year of membership in the State Bar of Michigan.

SECTION 3. Law student members of the State Bar of Michigan may become non-voting members of the Section upon application to the section without the payment of dues.

**ARTICLE III
OFFICERS, COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND LIAISONS**

SECTION 1. The officers of this Section shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall not act without prior council approval.

SECTION 2. There shall be Section Council consisting of 19 members, including the Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer; all shall be members of the Section, together with 15 section members who shall be elected by the Section at the annual meeting.

SECTION 3. Liaisons from other sections, who are not Children's Section council members, shall have standing to vote at council meetings if the Children's Section has reciprocity in the section; however, liaisons will not be included in the quorum and shall not be eligible to serve as

officers of the section or council. Liaisons shall be appointed for annual terms by the Chairperson to the Criminal Law Section and to the Family Law Section of the State Bar. Liaisons may also be appointed to other organizations.

SECTION 4. The Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be nominated and elected at each annual meeting of the Section, to hold office for a term beginning at the close of the annual meeting at which they shall have been elected and ending at the close of the next succeeding annual meeting of the Section when their successors shall have been elected and qualified. If the Office of Chair Elect is vacant at the annual meeting then the office of Chair shall also be nominated and elected.

SECTION 5. Five section members shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Section to serve on the Council for terms of 3 years.

SECTION 6. At the annual meeting of the section, prior to election of council members, one (1) member of the section shall be nominated and elected to serve as Chair Elect for a term of one (1) year; one (1) member of the section shall be nominated and elected to serve as Secretary for a term of one (1) year, and 1 member of the section shall be nominated and elected to serve as Treasurer for a term of one year.

SECTION 7. At the annual meeting of the Section, prior to election of Council members, one (1) member of the Section shall be nominated and elected to serve as Chair-Elect for a term of one (1) year; one (1) member of the Section shall be nominated and elected to serve as Secretary for a term of one (1) year, and 1 member of the Section shall be nominated and elected to serve as Treasurer for a term of one year.

SECTION 8. REMOVAL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS. If a council member fails to attend council meetings in person or by phone, and also fails to be excused by the Chairperson for 3 consecutive meetings, the Secretary shall give notice to all Council members that the Council will vote at the next meeting on possible removal and replacement of the absent council member. A council officer or member can be removed from their council position for good cause by a vote of 2/3 of the entire council.

ARTICLE IV NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. At or before each annual meeting of the Section, the Chair and the Chair Elect, shall appoint a nominating committee, which committee shall make and report nominations to the section for the offices of Chair, Chair Elect, Secretary and Treasurer and members of the council to succeed those whose terms will expire at the close of the annual meeting and to fill vacancies then existing for unexpired terms. Other nominations for the same offices may be made from the floor. In nominating candidates, the Committee shall consider the need for representation on the Council of members who reside in various geographic areas of the State.

SECTION 2. ELECTIONS. All contested elections shall be by written ballot unless otherwise authorized by resolution duly adopted by the Section at the annual meeting at which the election is held.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. CHAIR. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Council. The Chair shall appoint all committees of the Section consisting of Section members to perform such duties and exercise such powers subject to the limitations of these Bylaws and the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan. The Chair shall formulate and present at each Annual Meeting of the State Bar of Michigan a report of the work of the Section for the then past year. The Chair shall perform such other duties and acts as usually pertain to the office.

SECTION 2. CHAIR ELECT. Upon the death, resignation or during the disability of the Chair, or upon his or her refusal to act, the Chair Elect shall perform the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the Chair's term, except in the case of the Chair's disability; then only during so much of the term as the disability continues.

SECTION 3. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all books, records, papers, documents, and other property of the Section. He or she shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of the Council, whether assembled or acting under submission. With the Chair, he or she shall prepare the Section's Annual Report. The Secretary, in conjunction with the Chair, as authorized by the Council, shall attend generally to the business of the Section.

SECTION 4. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall keep a true record of all funds received and disbursed and shall report thereon to the Council whenever requested. Annually he or she shall submit a financial report for presentation to the membership of the Section. Consistent with the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan, he or she shall be responsible for forwarding all monies of the Section, which come into his or her hands, to the State Bar for deposit and credit to the account of the Section. The Treasurer shall present a current financial report at each meeting of the Council.

SECTION 5. Any officer can act as the chair of a council meeting in the absence of the Chair and Chair Elect.

ARTICLE VI DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

SECTION 1. The Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section, subject to the provisions of the Bylaws of the Section, the Supreme Court Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan and the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan. It shall specifically authorize all commitments or contracts, which shall entail the payment of money, and shall authorize the expenditure of all monies appropriated for the use or benefit of the Section. It shall not, however, without prior approval of the State Bar Board of Commissioners, authorize commitments or contracts which shall entail the payment of more money during any fiscal year than the total of: (a) the amount received in Section dues for such fiscal year; and (b) any unexpended funds remaining in the Section treasury from prior years.

SECTION 2. The Council shall have the authority to remove any chairperson or member from any Section Committees.

SECTION 3. The Council, during the interim between annual meetings of the Section, may fill vacancies in its own membership or in the office of Secretary or of Treasurer, or in the event of a vacancy in both the office of Chair and Chair Elect the office of Chair. Members of the Council and officers so appointed shall serve for the remainder of their respective terms.

SECTION 4. Regular monthly meetings of the Council shall be held at times and locations to be determined by the Chair, and the schedule of regular meetings for each fiscal year shall be published in advance.

SECTION 5. Seven (7) voting members of the Council present shall constitute a quorum at both monthly and special meetings of the Council.

SECTION 6. The Council shall act pursuant to a majority of a quorum of those present at regular and special meetings of the Council.

SECTION 7. The Chairperson of the Section and any voting members of the Council shall submit or cause to be submitted to the Council, any motion upon which the Council may be authorized to act; and the members of the Council may vote upon such motion so submitted by communicating their vote thereon to the Secretary, who shall record upon the minutes each motion so submitted; when, how, at whose request it was submitted; and the vote of each member of the Council thereon; and he or she shall retain on file such written and signed votes. Action supported by a majority of all the Council members entitled to vote with respect to a motion submitted in that manner shall constitute binding action of the Council.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the Section shall be held during and at the same place as the annual meeting of the State Bar of Michigan and shall include such programs and order of business as may be arranged by the Chair Elect.

SECTION 2. Ten (10) members of the Section present at the annual section meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 3. All actions of the section other than the amendment of the bylaws shall be taken pursuant to a majority vote of a quorum of the members present.

SECTION 4. Council and section members can attend any meeting in person, or by phone, or other council approved electronic means.

ARTICLE VIII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. The fiscal year of the Section shall be the same as that of the State Bar of Michigan.

SECTION 2. All debts incurred by the Section, before being forwarded to the State Bar of Michigan for payment shall first be approved by the Chair or the Treasurer, or, if the Council shall so direct, by both of them.

SECTION 3. No salary or compensation of any kind shall be paid to any officer, Council or committee member. The Section shall reimburse any expense incurred on behalf of the Section.

SECTION 4. Any action by this Section must be approved by the Board of Commissioners or the Representative Assembly of the State Bar of Michigan before it becomes effective as an official act of the State Bar of Michigan. Any resolution adopted or action taken by the Section may, on request of the Section, be reported by the Chair of the Section to the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly of the State Bar of Michigan for action.

SECTION 5. These Bylaws shall become effective upon their adoption by the Section and the approval thereof by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of the Section by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Section present and voting, provided there is a quorum; and provided further that any such proposed amendment shall first have been submitted for its recommendation to the Council; and provided further that no amendment so adopted shall become effective until approved by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan.

SECTION 2. Any proposed amendment of these Bylaws shall first be approved by the Council at a regular or special meeting prior to the annual meeting of the Section at which it is to be addressed. The Council shall consider the proposed amendment at such a meeting and shall prepare recommendations thereon; and those recommendations, together with a complete and accurate text of said proposed amendments, shall be published in the Michigan Bar Journal or Section newsletter at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the Section at which the amendment is to be considered and on the section listserv and on the section website at least 7 days prior to the annual meeting at which the amendment is to be considered.

SECTION 3. The Section cannot be dissolved or merged with another Bar section until approved by 2/3 votes by mail of the entire Section membership.

Created 1989

Amended 2/2/98

Amended 9/22/00

Amended 9/27/02

Amended 3/20/07