

BY-LAWS OF THE
FAMILY LAW SECTION OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

General Provisions

Section 1: Name. – This Section shall be known as the Family Law Section.

Section 2: Purpose. – The purpose of the Family Law Section shall be to bring together for better acquaintance and mutual advantage those members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association who are interested in the development and practical working of the law, both substantive and procedural, relating to marriage, divorce, protection from abuse, support, custody and visitation of children and domestic relations generally, as well as the law relating to adoption, ART, parentage, LGBTQ, family law issues and to juvenile matters.

Section 3: Definitions. – For the purposes of these by-laws, the following words, unless the context requires otherwise, shall mean:

“Association.” – The Pennsylvania Bar Association.

“Council.” – The Council of the Section.

“Section.” – The Family Law Section of the Association.

ARTICLE II

Membership of Section

Section 1: Membership; dues. – Any member of the Association, upon request to its Secretary and upon payment of annual Section dues in the amount established by the Council with approval of the Association’s Board of Governors, shall be enrolled as a member. Thereafter, dues shall be paid in advance each year beginning of the first of January next succeeding such enrollment. Any member whose annual dues shall be more than twelve (12) months past due, and who shall fail to make payment within one month after the receipt of notice of delinquency by mail, shall cease to be a member of this Section.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1: Positions created. – The Officers of this Section shall be Chair, Chair-Elect, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Past Chair.

Section 2: Chair. – The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Council and its Executive Committee and shall formulate and present at each annual meeting of the Association a report of the work of the Section for the past year. The Chair shall appoint the chairs and members of committees established by the Chair or created under resolution of the Council. The Chair shall be the spokesperson for the section unless some other person is so designated by the Chair. The Chair shall perform such other duties and acts as usually pertain to the office.

Section 3: Chair-Elect. – The Chair-Elect shall upon the expiration of the Chair’s term of office or upon the Chair’s death, resignation or inability to act, assume the office of Chair of the Section. During a period of temporary absence or disability of the Chair, the Chair-Elect shall act

as Chair. The Chair-Elect shall assist the Chair in the performance of the Chair's duties as directed by the Chair. No person who has not served as an officer or member of Council shall be nominated as Chair-Elect.

Section 4: Vice-Chairs. – The Vice-Chairs shall be responsible for promoting and maintaining membership in the Section by serving on and chairing such committees and undertaking such functions as the Chair shall designate and otherwise aiding the Chair in the administration of the Section.

Section 5: Secretary. – The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section, the Council and its executive Committee, whether assembled or acting under submission. With the Chair, the Secretary shall prepare a summary or digest of the proceedings of the Section at its various meetings for publication in the annual Report of the Association.

Section 6: Treasurer. – The Treasurer shall keep appropriate records of all dues Collected from members, all funds received by or credited to the Section and all expenses of the Section. At each annual meeting of the Section the Treasurer shall make a report of the financial status of the Section and a statement of any balance on hand which will be carried into the ensuing year. The Chair and Treasurer shall be empowered to sign requisitions upon the Association treasury for disbursement of Section funds.

Section 7: Past Chair; delegate to Association's House of Delegates. – The immediate Past Chair of the Section shall serve as the Section's delegate to the Association's House of Delegates and as Chair of the Section's Nominating Committee.

Section 8: Terms of office. – Officers shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Section and shall hold office for a one year term, without the right of succession, beginning at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and ending at the close of the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Council

Section 1: Membership. – There shall be a Council which shall consist of the officers of the Section, the immediate Past Chair and twenty-one other members of Council to be elected by the membership of the Section. In order to qualify for election to Council, the member must be in the practice of law for four years and a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section for no less than two years. All other Past Chairs shall be ex officio members of Council and shall be entitled to notice of and right to attend all meetings of Council and to participate in the business of the Section but without the right to vote.

Section 2: Meetings. – The Council shall meet in conjunction with the mid-year and annual meetings at a time, on a date and at a place determined by the Council. The Chair may, and upon written petition of at least ten council members the Secretary shall, call a special meeting of the Council. The minutes of the Council's meetings shall be supplied to all its members promptly after each meeting.

Section 3: Terms of office. – At each annual meeting of the Section, seven members of Council shall be nominated and elected to hold office for a three year term, beginning at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected, and ending at the close of the annual meeting three years thereafter. A member of Council who serves one full three year term,

cannot immediately be re-elected to another three year term. However, after the expiration of one year from the expiration of any member's term, they may run for Council again. In no year shall more than three Council members be elected to Council who have previously served a term on Council.

Section 4: Powers and duties. – The Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section subject to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association and the By-Laws of this Section. It may do all things necessary to operate as the legislative and governing body of the Section. It shall adopt an annual budget at the Section's annual meeting for the ensuing fiscal year. It may provide for the publication of a newsletter, journal and digest and determine the editorial policy for each. It shall approve all commitments or contracts which entail the payment of money, and shall approve the expenditure of all funds appropriated for the use or benefit of the Section. It may authorize committees appointed by the Chair from Section members to perform such duties and exercise such powers as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the Section, subject to the limitations of these By-Laws and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

Section 5: Vacancies during interim. – The Council during the interim between annual meetings of the Section may fill a vacancy in its own membership or among the officers. The person chosen shall serve until the end of the next annual meeting for which that term shall have expired.

Section 6: Voting. – All binding action of the Council shall require an affirmative vote of at least eight members. The vote may be taken in person or by mail, telephone, telephone conference call, fax, electronic mail or other similar method as determined by the Chair, provided that the vote is received by the Secretary before the close of the vote upon the proposition.

Section 7: Executive Committee. – There shall be an Executive Committee of the Council consisting of the officers and two members of the Council appointed by the Chair for a term of one year. The Executive Committee may meet in person or by mail, telephone, telephone conference call, fax, electronic mail or other similar method. A meeting may be called by the Chair and, upon the written request of five committee members, shall be called by the Secretary. Appropriate notice of a meeting of the Committee shall be given by the Secretary. Minutes shall be kept of the meeting and the same, or a summary thereof, shall be promptly provided to all members of the Council. The Executive Committee shall address those matters which can not be deferred until the annual or mid-year meetings or a meeting of the Council.

ARTICLE V

Nomination and Election of Officers and Council

Section 1: Nominations.- At least 90 days before the first session of each annual meeting of the Section, the Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee. Said Committee shall be comprised of the Chair Elect, Immediate Past Chair, the First Vice Chair, the Treasurer, two members of Council and one Past Section Chair. The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the immediate Past Chair, who shall make and report nominations to the Section membership for officers and members of Council to succeed those whose terms will expire at the close of the annual meeting and members of Council to fill those vacancies for which there is a non-expired term. Immediately following the decision from the Committee, a confidential written report shall be sent to the Officers. In addition, the report shall also be made in writing in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the membership, such as its inclusion in any regular publication of the Section. The report shall be mailed to the membership at least 40 days prior to the date set for the election of officers and council members. Other nominations must be made in writing

by petition to the Chair of the Nominating Committee signed by 35 members of the Section received at least 25 days prior to the date set for the elections.

Section 2: Elections. – All elections shall be scheduled by the Council to be held during the annual meeting of the Section.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1: Scheduled meetings. – The annual meeting of the Section shall be held at such place, date and time as the Council shall determine, with such program and order of business, including the time fixed for elections, as may be proposed by the Chair with the approval of the Council. There shall annually be a mid-year meeting and may be such other meetings of the membership to be held at a place, on a date and at time to be determined by the Council.

Section 2: Special meetings. – Special or adjourned meetings of the Section may be called by the Chair, with the approval of the Council, at such time and place as the Chair shall determine.

Section 3: Quorum. – The members of the Section present at any meeting of the Section called as provided by these By-laws shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VII

Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1: Fiscal year. – The fiscal year of the Section shall be the same as that of the Association.

Section 2: Association action required. – Any action by this Section which must be approved by the Association before it becomes effective as the action of the Association shall be reported by the Chair or a designee of the Chair to the next meeting of the Association's House of Delegates or Board of Governors for appropriate action.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended at any duly called regular or special meeting of the Section. The proposed amendment shall first have been approved by the Council. No amendment shall be effective until approved by the Board of Governors of the Association.

****Approved by the Board of Governors January 29, 2020***