

**New York State Bar Association  
Bylaws of the Family Law Section  
(As amended on November 6,  
2015)**

**ARTICLE 1  
Name and Purpose**

**Section 1.** This Section shall be known as the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association.

**Section 2.** The purpose of this Section shall be to bring together for furtherance of their mutual interests such members of the New York State Bar Association as are interested in Family Law.

**ARTICLE II  
Membership**

**Section 1.** Any member of the New York State Bar Association shall be eligible for membership in this Section, and shall be enrolled as a member of the section upon application to the Section Secretary and payment of such annual dues as shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Section.

**ARTICLE III  
Officers and Executive Committee**

**Section 1.** Members of this Section, at the Annual Meeting of the Section in even-numbered years, which shall be held during the week in which the Annual Meeting of the New York State Bar Association is held, shall elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Financial Officer, and the non-appointed Delegates to the House of Delegates of the Association. Officers and Delegates to the House of Delegates shall serve two (2) year terms.

**Section 2.** The Executive Committee will consist of the Chair; Vice-Chair; Secretary; Financial Officer; all Committee Chairs; Editor of the Family Law Review; Liaisons from the Young Lawyers Section, the Children and

the Law and the Interdisciplinary Committees (all of whom must be members of the Family Law Section); no more than twenty Members-at-Large; and one District Representative from each Judicial District in the state. The District Representatives, one Delegate and one alternate Delegate to the House of Delegates and Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Chair for two year terms. Appointed members of the Executive Committee shall be divided into two classes of relatively even size and with staggered terms. No District Representative from a Judicial District or Member-at-Large may be re-appointed to the same office for more than six consecutive years, nor may such Executive Committee member thereafter be appointed to such office until one year shall have elapsed following such six consecutive year period. All past Chairs of the Section shall be ex-officio members and shall have the right to vote.

**Section 3.** All officers, as well as all members of the Executive Committee will hold office for terms beginning February 1st. All members of the Executive Committee will hold office for terms beginning April 1st.

**Section 4.** A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of at least six members of said committee, and in determining said quorum not more than two former Chairs of the Section shall be counted.

#### **ARTICLE IV Nomination of Officers**

**Section 1.** No later than December 1st prior to each Annual Meeting of the Section at which elections occur, the Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three members of the Executive Committee, at least one of whom is a past Chair, which committee shall make and report nominations to the Section for the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Financial Officer and for the non-appointed Delegate(s) to the House of Delegates of the Association..

#### **ARTICLE V Duties of the Officers and of the Executive Committee**

**Section 1.** Chair: The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties and acts as usually pertain to the office of Chair.

**Section 2.** Vice-Chair: The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in performance of his duties when requested to do so. On the death, resignation or during the disability of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the Chair's term, except in case of the Chair's disability, and then only for so much of the term as the disability continues.

**Section 3.** Secretary: The Secretary shall be the custodian of all books, papers, documents and other property of the Section, except money, and shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee and the Standing Committees.

**Section 4.** Financial Officer: The Financial Officer shall prepare and present the Section's Annual Budget and perform such other duties as may be directed by the Chair of the Family Law Section. The Financial Officer shall be a member of the Section's Finance Committee.

**Section 5.** District Representatives: District Representatives shall be members of the Membership Committee. They shall promote and sustain membership in the Family Law Section and seek out and communicate concerns or ideas of Section members within their representative district to the Executive Committee.

**Section 6.** Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section subject to the Constitution and bylaws of the New York State Bar Association and the bylaws of the Section. It shall be responsible for the authorization of all commitments and contracts which shall entail the payment of money, for the expenditure of all monies collected by the Section or appropriated for the use and benefit of the Section.

**Section 7.** The Executive Committee, during the interim between the even-year Annual Meetings of the Section, may fill vacancies in the offices of Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Financial Officer, or in the event of a vacancy in the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair, then the office of Chair. Officers and Delegates to the House of Delegates appointed to vacancies shall serve the balance of the term of the officer being replaced.

## **ARTICLE VI Committees**

**Section 1.** There shall be the following standing committees of the Section:

- a) Committee on Membership
- b) Committee on Annual Meeting
- c) Committee on Amicus
- d) Committee on Legislation
- e) Committee on Finance
- f) Committee on Continuing Legal Education
- g) Committee on Long Range Planning
- h) Committee on Ethics
- i) Committee on Family Law Review and Publications

**Section 2.** The Chair may appoint *ad hoc* committees to advise the Chair and the Executive Committee on such matters as the Chair deems appropriate. The Chair may disband ad hoc committees as the Chair deems appropriate.

Section 3. The Chair of the Section shall appoint committee chairpersons or co-chairpersons as he or she shall determine. No person shall serve as a chair or co-chair of a committee of the Section for more than six consecutive years, but may be re-appointed as a chair or co-chair of that same committee after one year has elapsed following such six consecutive year period. The six year consecutive term limit shall apply retroactively but shall not be effective until the June 1, 2015 appointment of committee chairpersons or co-chairpersons. All committee chairpersons and co-chairpersons shall serve at the discretion of the Chair of the section.

## **ARTICLE VII Meetings**

**Section 1.** The Annual Meeting of the Section shall be held at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee during the week in which the Annual Meeting of the New York State Bar Association is held. Regional meetings may be held from time to time during the interim between Annual Meetings at such times and places as may be designated by the Executive

Committee and upon at least one week's notice to the members of the Section.

**Section 2.** The members of the Section present at any meetings shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 3.** All binding action of the section shall be by a majority vote of the members present.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Meetings and Notices by Telephonic or Communications Equipment**

**Section 1.** The Officers and any committee, including the Executive Committee, upon not less than 24 hours' notice, may conduct a meeting by means of a conference telephone, other communications equipment or other means allowing all members participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting. A written record of all action taken at such meetings shall be maintained.

**Section 2.** Notices shall be transmitted by electronic mail, facsimile, or any other type of electronic communication which is in common use for business communications in the State of New York.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Miscellaneous Provisions**

**Section 1.** Any action taken by this Section must be approved by the New York State Bar Association before the same is given publicity as or becomes effective as the action of the New York State Bar Association.

**Section 2.** These bylaws shall become effective upon adoption by the members of the New York State Bar Association who may be in attendance at the first meeting of this Section, and upon approval by the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association.

**Section 3.** The Executive Committee shall fix dues for membership in this Section and make payment of such amount a condition precedent for membership in the Section. After the Executive Committee fixes an amount to be charged as dues, such dues shall be payable to the Treasurer of the

New York State Bar Association to be expended only by approval of the Executive Committee of the Section.

**Section 4.** These bylaws may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Section or at any Regional or Summer Meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the members of the Section present, provided that no amendment shall be effective until approved by the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association.