

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY BYLAWS

Article I

Name, Organizational Structure, and Relationship

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the New Mexico Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AKA NMAMFT) - A Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AKA AAMFT).

Section 2. This Division is responsible to the duly elected officers and Board of Directors of the AAMFT and all rules and orders lawfully made thereunder.

Section 3. The bylaws of this Division shall be consistent with those of the AAMFT and shall be approved by the AAMFT before formal adoption by the Division.

Article II

Purpose and Objectives

Section 1. The purpose of this Division shall be:

(A) To Promote professional standards in marriage and family therapy in the State of New Mexico. The standards shall be consistent with those set out by the AAMFT. This purpose shall be furthered by meetings, continuing education activities, support and encouragement of training programs within the State, and by support of such additional meetings, activities and programs as advocated by AAMFT.

(B) To promote the common professional interest of those who are marriage and family therapists.

(C) To represent marriage and family therapy as a mental health profession to the public and before governmental bodies.

(D) To cooperate with other organizations and agencies in furtherance of the marriage and family therapy profession.

(E) The Division shall not make or declare dividends and no part of its net earnings shall benefit any private individual.

(F) to fulfill other purposes stated in the AAMFT bylaws as those purposes may be pursued appropriately at the Divisional level.

Section 2. To further the objectives of the Division by meetings, clinical sessions, publications, research in the field, and other relevant activities.

Section 3. The Division shall have the power to speak in behalf of its membership to attempt to influence legislation in the State of New Mexico Affecting the practice of marriage and family therapy. In pursuit of this aim, the Division shall, when appropriate, duly register itself with the designated State officials as lobbyist for the profession of marriage and family therapy in New Mexico.

Section 4. The Division shall have all the powers and be subject to all the restrictions that pertain by law to membership in professional organizations so far as the same are applicable thereto.

Article III Membership

Section 1. The membership of the Association shall be divided into two (2) categories:

(A) Voting Members. The voting membership shall be composed of Clinical Members.

(B) Non-voting Members. The non-voting membership shall be composed of Student Members, Associate Members and Affiliate Members.

Section 2. All members of the Division shall be members in good standing of the AAMFT and all AAMFT members maintaining an address of record in New Mexico with the AAMFT offices shall be members in good standing of the New Mexico Division.

Section 3. Members shall be governed by and abide by the bylaws of the AAMFT and by the bylaws of the Division and all rules and orders lawfully made thereunder.

Section 4. All members shall pay both their AAMFT and their divisional dues.

Section 5. Persons in all membership categories of the Association shall abide by and be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and all rules and orders lawfully made thereunder.

Section 6. Any member whose membership in the Association shall cease for any reason whatsoever shall have no further rights in the Association or its property.

Article IV Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the Division shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Past President. The officers must be Clinical Members of AAMFT.

Section 2. The President shall serve a term of two (2) years, following a term of two (2) years as President-Elect. The President shall be the Chief Officer of the Division and of

the Board and shall perform such duties as are customary for presiding officers, including making all required appointments with the approval of the Board. The President also shall serve as member ex-officio with right to vote on all committees except the Elections Committee.

Section 3. The President-Elect shall serve a term of two (2) years, succeeding to the office of President upon completion of that term. The President-Elect shall serve as Presiding Officer of the Division and Board during the absence of the President. The President-Elect shall chair the Conference committee and will plan the Divisional conference(s) for his or her term of office.

Section 4. The Secretary shall serve a term of three (3) years. The Secretary shall keep the records of all business meetings of the Division and meetings of the Board, shall direct the distribution of minutes and reports as authorized by these bylaws and by the Board, and shall be responsible for all official correspondence of the Division.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall serve a term of three (3) years. The Treasurer shall be Chairperson of the Finance Committee, shall oversee the management of funds for duly authorized purposes of the Division, shall prepare the annual budget, and shall present periodic financial reports to the Board and an Annual report to the membership and the AAMFT. The fiscal year of the Division shall begin on January 1.

Section 6. The Past President shall serve a term of one (1) year immediately following completion of a term of office as President.

Section 7. Divisional Officers shall be assumed to have resigned from office at such time as they move outside the Divisional geographic boundaries. If any Officer ceases to be in good standing by reason of non-payment of dues, the Board shall declare his/her office to be vacant.

Section 9. The Board of Directors by majority vote will elect an eligible candidate to fill the unexpired term of office for any board member who is not able to complete the term of said office until such time as the next general election when a candidate from among those put forward by the Nominations and Elections Committee or by petition or write-in shall be elected by the voting members to fill the unexpired term.

Article V Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers, three (3) Directors and a Student/Associate Representative, all members of the AAMFT who are in good standing. The directors shall serve three (3) year terms, staggered so that one (1) director shall be replaced each year.

Section 2. The Board shall exercise all powers of the Division, except as specifically prohibited by these bylaws and the AAMFT bylaws. The Board shall be authorized to

adopt and publish such policies, procedures, and rules as may be necessary and consistent with these bylaws and AAMFT bylaws, and to exercise authority over all Divisional business and funds.

Section 3. The Board shall meet at the call of the President and at least once each year, or at the written request of at least three (3) members of the Board directed to the Secretary. A quorum shall consist of no less than one-half of the membership of the Board at any given time. Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and may take part and vote in person only. The meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, revised.

Article VI Committees

Section 1. The standing committees of the Division shall include the following Ethics, Finance Conference, Membership, and Elections, and such other standing committees as shall be authorized by the Board. The Committees are responsible to the Board.

Section 2. All standing committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board, except the Elections Committee. Terms of office ordinarily shall be three (3) years, with at least one (1) member being appointed and one (1) member retiring from the committee each year. The term of office shall begin on January 1 of the year following appointment, except when an appointment is made to fill a vacancy. The majority of each committee shall be composed of Clinical Members. Representatives of the public may be appointed as needed. Members of committees may be removed by the President with the approval of the Board for malfeasance or non-performance of duties.

Section 3. The members of the Elections Committee shall be elected by mail or electronic ballot by the voting membership of the Division, and shall serve a term of three (3) years, staggered so that one (1) member shall be replaced each year.

Section 4. The President with the approval of the Board shall appoint a chairperson for each standing committee, except as otherwise provided by these bylaws. The Chairperson shall be a Clinical Member. Following the annual membership meeting, the President shall authorize a continuing member of the Elections Committee to convene the Committee; the Chairperson being elected by the Committee.

Section 5. The Ethics Committee shall be responsible for educating the membership and the public regarding the AAMFT Code of Ethics. The committee shall not conduct investigations or consider allegations of violations of ethical principles made against members, nor shall it issue or render advisory opinions on ethical matters but shall refer such matters to the AAMFT Ethics Committee. The committee shall function in accordance with the Procedures for Handling Ethical Matters.

Section 6. The Finance Committee shall assist the Treasurer in preparing the annual budget for approval by the Board and the membership, and shall be responsible for making recommendation to the Board and membership in matters pertaining to the finances of the Division.

Section 7. The membership Committee shall be responsible for dispensing information on AAMFT membership requirements and application procedures to potential members and otherwise encouraging appropriate inquiry and application to the AAMFT.

Section 8. The Elections Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for Officer, Director and Elections Committee positions, and shall oversee the elections of such positions as provided in these bylaws and in rules and procedures adopted by the Board for elections.

Section 9. The conference committee shall plan, promote and implement the divisional conferences.

Article VII Local Chapters

Local chapters of the Division may be formed at the description of the Board, providing that such chapters conform to AAMFT and Divisional bylaws and policies with regard to membership, voting, holding office, serving on committees, and related matters.

Article VIII Meetings of the Membership

Section 1. The annual meeting of the membership shall be held at a date and location to be determined by the Board.

Section 2. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the President or a majority of the Board.

Section 3. Notice of all annual special meetings shall be sent to all voting members of the Division at least 45 days in advance of the meeting by the Board of Directors Action at such meeting shall be limited to those agenda items contained in the notice of the meeting.

Section 4. A quorum at all annual and special meetings of the Division shall be ten (10) percent of the voting membership of the Division, present in person at the meeting, not including the Officers and Directors. No proxies shall be permitted.

Section 5. All meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, revised.

Article IX
Nominations and Elections

Section 1. The nomination and election of Officers, Directors and members of the Elections Committee shall be conducted annually. All voting members of the Division shall have the right to vote in the election that shall be conducted by mail or electronic ballot. Discrimination in election and nomination procedures on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, and sexual orientation is forbidden. Candidates who are elected shall assume office on the first day of January following their election and shall hold office for the tenure of their office, or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The Elections Committee, which shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members, shall prepare a slate containing at least two (2) nominees for each position and shall determine the eligibility and willingness of each nominee to stand for election. Write-in voting shall be allowed, provided the write-in candidates are eligible for election and have agreed to serve if elected. The candidate who receives a plurality of votes for each office shall be elected. Ballots shall be counted by the Board or by tellers designated by the Board. Acceptable types of ballots can be paper or electronic at the discretion of the board. Only electronic ballots from the email address on file for a given member will be accepted. Any votes from an unauthorized email account will be void. In the event of multiple submissions from the same email address the earliest submission will be accepted and subsequent votes will be void.

Article X
Dues

Section 1. Dues for the Division shall be established by majority vote of the Division's board of directors, under policies and procedures established by the AAMFT Board, except in such instances where the proposed increase is greater than ten (10) percent of the previous year's dues.

Section 2. All dues billings, dues collections and dues disbursements shall be performed by AAMFT.

Article XI
Amendments

These bylaws may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the voting members voting by ballot returned within thirty (30) days of the date by which members can reasonably be presumed to have received the ballot. Amendments may be proposed by the Board on its own initiative, or upon petition by twenty (20) percent of the voting members addressed to the Board. All such proposed amendments shall be presented by the Board to the membership with or without recommendation.