



Bylaws of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists A California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this corporation shall be the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, referred to herein as “Association.” Any change of the Association’s name shall be accomplished in accordance with the law pertaining to amendment of Articles of Incorporation rather than amendment of these Bylaws. The words “corporation” and “Association” are used interchangeably in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE II – OFFICES

Section A - PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office for the transaction of the business of the Association is located in the City and County of San Diego, California. The Directors may change the principal office from one location to another. Any change of this location shall be noted by the secretary on these bylaws opposite this section, or this section may be amended to state the new location.

Section B - OTHER OFFICES

The Board of Directors may at any time establish branch or subordinate offices at any place or places where the Association is qualified to do business.

Section C – SERVICE OF PROCESS

The Executive Director shall be the Agent for Service of Process, located at 7901 Raytheon Road, San Diego, CA 92111.

ARTICLE III - OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The objectives of this Association shall be:

- To advance marriage and family therapy as an art, a science and a mental health profession.
- To serve and represent the common professional and business interests of marriage and family therapists.
- To set and maintain professional standards for marriage and family therapists.
- To advocate and work to achieve public and private policies for the advancement of family life.
- To engage in such other lawful activities as is allowed by law and/or as is set forth in the Articles of Incorporation of this Association.

This Association is a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation organized under the Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law. The purpose of this Association is to engage in any lawful act or activity, other than credit union business, for which a corporation may be organized under such law.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section A CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

There shall be three (3) categories of membership in this Association: clinical membership, prelicensed membership and associate membership. There shall be one title known as honorary distinguished member.

Section B QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Clinical member - a clinical member shall hold a license as a marriage and family therapist issued by the Board of Behavioral Science for the State of California. All clinical members, regardless of classification, shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of the Association without restriction. Clinical membership may be held, in appropriate circumstances, according to the following classifications:
 - a. life clinical member - a clinical member who has paid the required dues for this category of membership.
 - b. distinguished clinical member - a clinical member or life clinical member who has given outstanding service in the field of marriage and family therapy, and who at the time of nomination is still engaged in the advancement of this field. Other requirements shall be two (2) years of clinical membership in the Association and five (5) years of experience in the field subsequent to licensure. Distinguished clinical members shall be nominated by any member. Nominations shall be made to the honors committee, who shall make their recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall make the selection by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. Distinguished clinical members shall retain their status as such as long as they remain members in good standing of the Association. The number of distinguished clinical members to be elected each year shall be in proportion to the total clinical membership, never to exceed a number equal to one-half (1/2) of one percent of the total clinical membership as of the first of January preceding such election by the Board of Directors.
 - c. emeritus clinical member - a clinical member of at least 65 years of age, who at formal retirement from marriage and family therapy has been a clinical member in good standing for at least ten (10) consecutive years immediately prior to written application for this category of membership. The emeritus clinical member shall not be required to pay dues.
2. Prelicensed member - a prelicensed member shall be enrolled in a master's or doctor's degree program satisfying the educational requirements for eligibility to sit for the licensed marriage and family examination(s), or shall have completed all educational requirements for licensure and shall presently be engaged in the process of gaining hours of experience towards licensure either as a registered intern, applicant, or in some other lawful capacity. A prelicensed member shall be eligible for advancement to clinical member status upon becoming licensed, and shall no longer be eligible for prelicensed member status upon the expiration of ninety (90) days from the date of licensure. The prelicensed member's right to vote is limited to voting only for the one director at large who is elected from and by the prelicensed membership. A prelicensed member is entitled to the other rights and privileges of Association membership.
3. Associate member - an associate member shall be:
 - a. in a profession related to marriage and family therapy, whose practitioners are licensed, certified or registered pursuant to California law, or who are specifically exempt from licensure or certification, who shall not hold a marriage and family therapist license, or

- b. a California licensed marriage and family therapist who is a resident and domiciliary of a state or jurisdiction other than California, or
- c. a resident and domiciliary of a state or jurisdiction other than California who lawfully practices marriage and family therapy.

An associate member shall not be eligible to vote or to hold office, but shall be entitled to all other rights and privileges of Association membership.

- 4. Honorary distinguished member - the title of honorary distinguished member may be awarded to a nonmember who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of marriage and family therapy. This title is an honor and does not entitle the holder to any rights or privileges of the Association. The title may be awarded only in the following manner: nominations shall be made in writing by any member to the honors committee who shall recommend the award to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall make the award only upon its two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Section C ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, membership in any category shall be upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may refer any application for membership to the Ethics Committee when it has reasonable cause to believe that the applicant may have violated the *CAMFT Code of Ethics*. The Ethics Committee, after investigating the referral, shall make its recommendation to the Board of Directors. All members shall pay dues in accordance with the dues schedule of the Association and shall abide by the Bylaws and the *CAMFT Code of Ethics*.

Section D FEES, DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Each member in good standing, except if otherwise exempt by these Bylaws, must pay, within the time and on the conditions set forth in these Bylaws, or where appropriate, as established by the Board of Directors, such fees, dues and assessments as are fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section E TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Association may terminate upon occurrence of any of the following: resignation, non-payment of dues, expulsion, suspension, or loss of eligibility.

- 1. Resignation - a member may resign from membership at any time by submitting in writing to the Association his or her resignation. The effective date of the resignation shall be when the Association receives the letter of resignation or at such later time as is indicated in the letter.
- 2. Nonpayment of dues - anyone in any class of membership whose dues are in default on the first day of the sixth month following that member's designated anniversary month automatically shall be dropped from membership in the Association, provided a notice has been mailed to such member at his/her address of record with the Association at least thirty (30) days prior to such termination date.
- 3. Expulsion or suspension - any member who violates the *CAMFT Code of Ethics* may be expelled or suspended from membership in the Association following an investigation and report by the ethics committee and a hearing before the board of directors. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those directors present at the hearing shall be necessary in order to expel or suspend a member. The member accused of the violation shall be given a reasonable opportunity to defend against the charge and shall be entitled to be represented at all stages of the proceedings. Any member to be expelled or suspended shall be entitled to at least fifteen (15) days prior notice of the expulsion or suspension and the reasons therefore, and shall be entitled to be heard, orally or in writing, not less than five (5) days before the effective date of expulsion or suspension by the board of directors. Notice may be given by any method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice. Any notice given by mail shall be given by first-

Merger of the Association may be initiated by a recommendation passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors and upon passage by the Board, the recommendation for merger shall be recommended to the membership for ratification by mail ballot. A copy of the proposal for merger shall be sent to all voting members of the Association at least three (3) weeks prior to the deadline for voting. There shall be specified on the ballot a deadline for its return. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of ballots returned shall be required for ratification of the proposed merger.

ARTICLE XXI - DISSOLUTION

Dissolution of the Association, whether voluntary or involuntary, shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable provision of California's Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law.

In the event of the dissolution of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, all assets and funds of the Association shall, after debts and/or obligations are paid, be distributed to one or more charitable organization(s) or foundation(s) as determined by the Board of Directors in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation of the Association.

ARTICLE XXII - CHAPTERS

For the mutual benefit of all, for the advancement of marriage and family therapists, and in order to further the objectives of CAMFT, the Board of Directors may charter groups of marriage and family therapists on a geographical basis as chapters of this Association.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to establish such terms and conditions regarding the formation of chapters as it considers desirable. The Board of Directors shall have the power to revoke the charter of a chapter when the Board of Directors determines that the chapter is not operating in the best interest of CAMFT.

Each individual chapter shall limit its Board of Directors in the following manner:

A chapter's Board of Directors shall be comprised of no more than thirty-five (35) percent of associate members or prelicensed members of the Association who are entitled to vote on matters submitted before the chapter's Board of Directors. Such members shall not serve as President, President Elect, or Past President.

In case of necessity, a chapter may request a variance from the CAMFT Board of Directors if the above provision is not achievable. Such request is granted solely for a one year period. The chapter may make a separate request to the CAMFT Board of Directors should the necessity arise for a variance in any subsequent year.

Any chapter established pursuant to this article shall be a separate and distinct legal entity from CAMFT and from other chapters, and shall be solely responsible for the conduct of its own activities and affairs. CAMFT shall not be responsible for any debts, liabilities or other obligations of any chartered chapter.

ARTICLE XXIII - CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, certify that I am presently elected and acting Secretary of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, a California nonprofit corporation, and the above Bylaws,