

Bylaws
Children and the Law Section
As approved by the Assembly 4/23/94, 12/03/04

ARTICLE I. Name and Purpose

Section 1.1 This Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association ("MSBA") shall be known as the Children and the Law Section of the MSBA.

Section 1.2 The purpose of the Section shall be to work to improve the quality of life for children through advancements in law, justice, and public policy and to foster and enhance the skills of Minnesota lawyers engaged in the representation of children, and by serving as a liaison with other parts of the MSBA and the public on issues related to children and the law.

ARTICLE II. Membership

Section 2.1 Any member of the MSBA in good standing and having paid the required annual dues of the Section shall be eligible for membership in this Section and shall be enrolled as a member upon request to the Treasurer of the Section or designated agent.

Section 2.2 Any public member having paid the required annual dues of the Section and having been approved by the authority of the MSBA, shall be eligible for membership in this Section.

Section 2.3 Dues shall be set by the membership of the Section at any meeting of the Section, and such dues may be changed annually by appropriate action of the membership subject to approval by the Assembly of the MSBA.

ARTICLE III. Officers

Section 3.1 The officers of the Section shall consist of one Chair, one Vice-Chair, one Secretary, and one Treasurer, and such other officers as may be determined and elected in accordance with these Bylaws.

Section 3.2 There shall also be a Section Council, which shall consist of all of the Section officers currently elected and serving, the current Section Chair and Vice Chair, and four (4) additional members of the Section elected in accordance with these Bylaws. Each member of the Section Council shall be designated a Council Member. The number of committees of the Section and their respective responsibilities, and the programs of the Section, shall be as determined from time to time by the Section Council as stated herein. A Council member may serve as Chair of a Committee of the Section. The Section Council shall have full power and authority to act in the intervals between meetings of the Section to do all acts and perform all functions that the Section itself might perform, except that it shall not have authority to amend these Bylaws. The Section Council shall, in the intervals between meetings of the Section, have authority to fill officer vacancies. One-half (1/2) of the Council members currently elected and serving shall constitute a quorum at any properly noticed meeting of the Section Council.

Section 3.3 Officers, Council members and Section Chair and Vice Chair must be current members of the Section at all times when in office.

Section 3.4 The term of office shall be one (1) year for any officer and two (2) years for any Council Members. Two Council Members shall be elected each year, except for the first election in which all four Council Members shall be elected with two of them serving only one year terms.

Section 3.5 A member shall not hold more than one office at any time in this Section, except as expressly provided in these Bylaws. No officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive annual terms in the same office. No Council Member may serve more than two (2) two-year terms. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, a member may be Chair of more than one committee at one time.

ARTICLE IV. Committees

Section 4.1 The Council of this Section is authorized to establish, or to empower the Chair of the Section to establish, such committees as it may deem necessary and desirable to promote effectively the activities of the Section within the jurisdiction of the Section. In establishing a new committee, the Council shall state the area of its proposed activities.

Section 4.2 The Chair of the Section shall appoint the Chair or Co-Chairs of each committee of the Section, to serve for one year or at the pleasure of the Chair, as well as appoint successor Chairs.

ARTICLE V. Election of Officers

Section 5.1 Commencing July 1, 1994, the election of officers will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Section which shall be set at a date determined by the Section Council.

Section 5.2 Before the Annual Meeting, the Chair shall appoint a nominating committee to present nominations for the offices of the Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer to the Section Council. The Vice Chair in any year shall serve as the Chair in the subsequent year.

Section 5.3 The Section Council after consideration of the nominations shall present a slate of candidates at the Annual Meeting to the Section Members. Nominations properly made from the floor at the election meeting will be accepted. The candidate for each office receiving the most vote for the office is elected.

ARTICLE VI. Duties of Officers

Section 6.1 The Chairs, or Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair, shall preside at all meetings of the Section, and shall be responsible for the preparation and presentation of an annual report to the MSBA. The Chair, or the Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair, shall be entitled to represent the Section upon invitation to the Assembly of the MSBA and shall perform such other duties and acts as customarily pertain to that office.

The Chair shall file within thirty (30) days after the close of each fiscal year, an accounting of the Section's finances for the fiscal year.

Section 6.1 One of the other elected officers shall preside at all meetings of the Section in the absence of both of the Chair and the Vice Chair.

Section 6.3 The Secretary shall keep all minutes of meetings and other records of the Section and its membership, maintain correspondence and give notice of meetings as requested by the Co-Chairs as well as perform such other duties and acts as customarily pertain to this office.

Section 6.4 The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of the funds of the Section subject to the general supervision and control of the Section Council. The Treasurer shall render a financial report to the Section Council at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall also make financial reports to the Section Council at such times as the Council shall require. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Section Council from time to time.

ARTICLE VII. Meetings

Section 7.1 Meetings of the Section shall be held periodically, and at least annually, at such places and at such times as shall be designated by the Section Council.

Section 7.2 Meetings of the members of the Section shall be convened pursuant to written notice given by mail, and addressed to the Section members or published in an official publication of the MSBA to its members, or both, in either case at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting. The members shall inform the Secretary of name and address changes.

Section 7.2 All members of the Section who are present at any duly noticed Section meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All binding actions of the Section shall be a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE VIII. Restrictions

Section 8.1 These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by the members of the Section by ballot and after approval by or with the authority of the Assembly of the MSBA.

Section 8.2 No action of this Section, or of any Committee of the Section, shall be promulgated or publicized in any way as a MSBA action without first obtaining the approval of the Assembly or otherwise complying with the Bylaws of the MSBA.

Section 8.3 The Section shall not represent the MSBA before any legislative body, in any court in a controversial procedure, or before any other governmental body, unless authorized to do so by the Assembly of the MSBA.

Section 8.4 The Section shall not publicly advocate any recommendations in the name of the Section unless it has complied with the applicable Bylaws of the MSBA.

ARTICLE IX. Fiscal Year

The membership and fiscal years of the Section shall begin on July 1 and conclude on June 30 of the following year.

ARTICLE X. Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended by vote at any meeting of the Section by a majority of the Section members present, provided written notice of the proposed changes has been given to the membership, mailed at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting, together with a notice of the

meeting at which such amendment is to be considered. Such amendment shall not be effective until approved by or with the authority of the Assembly of the MSBA.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of April, 1994.