



Bylaws of the Missouri Association for Play Therapy

Article I

Name

Section 1. **Name.** The name of this Branch shall be the Missouri Association for Play Therapy (MAPT).

Section 2. **Affiliation.** This Association is the Missouri Association for Play Therapy State Branch of the Association for Play Therapy (APT) and shall conduct its affairs in compliance with the bylaws of that organization.

Section 3. Is deemed to be a separate corporate entity for the purpose of making contracts, incurring liabilities, acquiring rights, and of suing and being sued in any state or federal court.

Article II

Purpose and Objectives

Section 1. **Purpose.** The Purpose of the Missouri Association for Play Therapy is to provide a forum for the discussion of play therapy ideas and concerns, advocate for the well-being of children, promote the highest standards of practice for play therapy throughout the state of Missouri, to increase public awareness of the efficacy of play therapy and to provide on-going education and professional development to those practicing play therapy.

Section 2. **Objectives.** The Objectives of this association shall be to:

- (a). seek to advance the discipline of play therapy.
- (b). conduct and foster programs of education in the field of play therapy;
- (c). promote sound play therapy practices in the interest of society and the individual;
- (d). advance high standards of professional conduct by conducting educational and professional meetings and conferences;
- (e). inform and educate the general public and the mental health community about the benefits and process of play therapy;
- (f). establish contacts with various organizations for support and educational pursuits; and
- (g). advocate for the rights of children, their families, and significant others.

Article III

Membership

Section 1. Membership shall consist of three (3) types: individual, affiliate, and organizational.

Section 2. Individual membership

(a). **Eligibility.** Any person whose interests and/or responsibilities are in the areas of play therapy may become a member of the Association. No one may be denied membership in this Association on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, lifestyles, or age.

(b). **Privileges.** Any person who has met the qualifications for individual membership and has paid the prescribed dues shall be eligible to attend meetings of the association, to vote and to hold office.

Section 3. Affiliate Membership.

(a). **Eligibility.** Any student, parent, non-profit mental health organization, or other non-professional individual interested in play therapy shall be eligible for affiliate membership.

(b). **Privileges.** Any person who has met the qualifications for affiliate membership and has paid the prescribed dues shall be eligible to attend meetings of the Association. These members may not vote nor hold office.

Section 5. Severance of Membership

- (a). A member may be dropped from membership for the non-payment of dues.
- (b). A member may be dropped from membership if the Board or its designated agent determines that the member has failed in a material and serious degree to observe the policies and procedures of MAPT, engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to the purpose, interests, and image of MAPT, or committed a felony or other serious crime.
- (c). It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors upon investigation to decide whether or not a member shall be dropped for membership for reasons stated under the Bylaws of the Association Termination action shall not be taken until a member is advised of the specific rationale for termination and given an opportunity for due process as described in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Article IV

Officers

Section 1. Officers and Terms of Office.

- (a). The officers of this Association shall be the President, the President-Elect, the Immediate Past-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, Member-at-Large and Technology Officer.
- (b). All Officers of the Association shall be nominated by the Nominating and Election Committee and presented as a slate of candidates to the Board from the professional individual members of the Association in good standing and shall serve for two (2) year terms, with the exception of President who shall serve two (2) years as President-Elect, two (2) years as President, and one (1) year as Past-President. Candidates for President-Elect must have served at least one year as an Association Officer before consideration as a candidate. The Board may make exceptions in the case where there are no qualifying candidates for the President-Elect position.
- (c). The officers of this Association shall comprise the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
- (d). Upon the death, resignation, or severance of membership of any officer except that of president, a successor shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
- (e). Officers shall be members in good standing of the MAPT and APT and may be removed from office if the Board or its designated agent determines that the officer has failed in a material and serious degree to observe the policies and procedures of MAPT, engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to the purpose, interests, and image of MAPT, or committed a felony or other serious crime.

Article V

Area Representatives

Section 1. Definition of Areas and Selection of Representative

- (a). Areas will be defined by the Board of Directors based on membership from a particular area.
- (b). Representatives from each area will be selected by the Board and shall serve for Two (2) years.
- (c). The Area Representative is not a voting membership of the Board.
- (d). Area Representative shall be members in good standing of the MAPT and APT.

Section 2. The Purpose of the Area Representatives.

- (a). The Representative is to act as spokesperson for members from his or her assigned area.
- (b). The Representative is to promote membership from the assigned area.

- (c). Involvement with the Board of Directors will prepare the Area
- (d). Representative for service on the Board if elected.

Article VI

Board of Directors

Section 1. The Association shall be governed by the Board of Directors totaling no more than fifteen (15) members.

Section 2. Composition.

(a). The Board of Directors shall be composed as follows:

- (1). the elected officers of the Association;
- (2). one director elected from the at-large membership for each one hundred (100) members or majority proportion thereof; and
- (3). one director elected by each organized chapter.

(b). Directors from the at-large membership shall be elected at the same time as the officers with half being elected each year. The initial at-large Directors will be elected at the organizational meeting and be designated to serve two (2) year terms.

(c). The term of office for each member of the Board of Directors, other than the elected officers of the Association, shall be for two (2) years and shall begin immediately following the annual meeting of the election year.

(d). The officers of the Association shall form an Executive Committee which shall meet as needed.

(e). Upon the death or resignation or severance of membership of one of the Board Members from the membership, the Executive Committee shall select someone to fill the unexpired term.

Section 3. Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors.

The powers and duties shall be:

(a). To formulate Association policies, recommend such policies to the membership, and to adhere to all adopted policies.

(b). To conduct the business of the Association and to make recommendations to the membership.

(c.) To agree to and be eligible for coverage of and inclusion in the Association's Director's and Officers Liability Insurance policy.

Section 4. Meetings of the Board of Directors.

(a). The Board of Directors shall meet prior to each regularly scheduled meeting of the Association. Other meetings may be called as necessary by the President or five members of the Board with at least fourteen (14) days' notice.

(b). Each member of the Board of Directors shall have a vote and a simple majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

(c). The President of the Association shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and the President-Elect shall preside in the absence of the President.

Article VII

Committees

Section 1. Appointment of Committees.

The President, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, shall name such standing and special committees as may be needed to conduct the activities of the Association and appoint the respective chairperson.

Section 2. Standing Committees.

The Standing Committees of the Association shall be the Bylaws and Ethics Committee, the Membership Committee, the Nominations and Election Committee and the Program Committee.

Article VIII

Chapters

Section 1. Letter of Intent.

An organizing committee composed of a group of MAPT members may petition the Association to form a chapter by submitting a Letter of Intent to the Association's Board of Directors.

Section 2. Application for Chapter Certificate.

- (a). The organizing committee shall request and complete an application for Chapter status and present it to the Association's Board of Directors.
- (b). The application shall be filed in accordance with the guidelines established by the MAPT.
- (c). The Bylaws of the Chapter shall conform to the APT and the MAPT Bylaws.
- (d). All Association members residing in the Chapter area must be notified of the intent to organize a local Chapter and will vote on the formation of the Chapter. A Chapter may be formed upon approval of at least ten percent (10%) of the eligible votes.
- (e). Chapter APT Certificates shall be granted by APT Board of Directors only upon recommendation of MAPT to APT.

Article IX

Nominations and Election of Officers and Board Members

Section 1. Nominations and Election Committee.

- (a). A nominations and election committee chair shall be President-Elect. The committee shall propose to its Board, a slate of individual members in good standing each year by the final board meeting prior to the annual conference. The Board shall, by majority vote, either adopt the slate or return it to the committee for reconsideration.
- (b). Once the board adopts a slate of candidates, it shall advise the general membership that these candidates are to be voted on at the next membership meeting. The general membership will have 30 days to submit petitions in opposition to any particular candidate. To remove a candidate from the slate 30% of individual members in good standing, must petition against the candidate. If no petitions are received, the general membership shall elect from the slate at the next membership meeting.
- (c). If one or more valid petitions are received, a ballot listing all eligible candidates in alphabetical order shall be circulated to voting members in good standing and those candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the board.
- (d). Among the slate of candidates elected by the general membership; individuals will be assigned to available board positions as determined by current board consensus.

Article X

Finances

Section 1. Dues.

Annual Association dues for members shall be recommended by the Board of Directors, approved by the membership, and collected by the Treasurer.

Section 2. Budget.

The Board of Directors shall prepare and present a budget to the membership for adoption at each annual meeting for the Association.

Section 3. Authorization of Expenditures.

The Treasurer shall deposit and disburse funds in the name and to the credit of the Association in compliance with approved budget and/or approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Audit.

An auditor's report shall be presented to the Board of Directors at the final meeting of the Association each year.

Article XI

Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (Robert, 2000) shall govern the proceedings of the Association not otherwise specified in the Bylaws.

Article XII

Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Association by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present and voting.

Section 2. Procedure.

- (a). Proposals to amend the Bylaws may be initiated by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by twenty-five (25) individual members in good standing.
- (b). All proposed amendments must be approved by the Board of Directors of MAPT and then by the Board of Directors of APT.
- (c). After approval by the Board of MAPT and APT the proposed amendment may be presented to the MAPT membership.
- (d). Each individual member shall receive a written copy of the amended Bylaws after the annual meeting of the Association.

Article XIII

Effective Date

These Bylaws shall be in compliance with APT Bylaws and shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the membership.

These Bylaws were adopted on May 1, 1993.

These Bylaws were amended to reflect APT's preferred method of election and voting procedures on June 12, 2015.

These Bylaws were amended to reflect extended terms for President-Elect and President positions as well as to clarify Duties of the Officers on June 8, 2018.

Article XIV

Indemnification

Any person who was, is, or is threatened to be made a part to any action or proceeding, except an action by the Missouri Association for Play Therapy ("MAPT"), for activities directly associated with being a director, officer, employee or agent of MAPT **can** be indemnified by MAPT for expenses reasonably and actually incurred by him/her in connection with the action or proceeding as long as he/she acted in good faith and in a manner he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to MAPT's best interest.

Robert III, H.M. (2000). Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10/e. Cambridge, Mass.: Perseus Publishing.