

# MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

## Bylaws

Effective February 1, 2024

### *ARTICLE I. Name, Organizational Structure, and Relationship*

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Mississippi Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (hereinafter referred to as the MAMFT or the Association).

**Section 2.** This organization is incorporated in the State of Mississippi as a nonprofit corporation.

**Section 3.** This organization shall function independently in the State of Mississippi and shall not operate as a division or chapter of any larger organization or association.

### *ARTICLE II. Purposes*

**Section 1.** The purposes for which the organization is formed and operates is as follows:

- (A) To promote the common professional interests of those who are marriage and family therapists in the State of Mississippi.
- (B) To provide continuing education opportunities to members.
- (C) To provide advocacy efforts when needed in Mississippi in order to further promote the profession of Marriage and Family Therapy.

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

### *ARTICLE III. Membership*

**Section 1.** The membership of the Association shall be divided into four (4) categories:

- (A) Clinical Members. The Clinical Membership shall be composed of members that are Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Mississippi and are in good standing with the Board of Examiners (BOE) of Social Work and Marriage and Family Therapy. Clinical Members will also be considered voting members of MAMFT.
- (B) Clinical Associate Members: The Clinical Associate Membership shall be composed of members that have the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Associate (LMFTA) credential in the State of Mississippi.
- (C) Student Members: The Student Membership shall be composed of students enrolled or recently graduated (in the last 2 years) in a COAMFTE accredited graduate program in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy.
- (D) Affiliate Members: The Affiliate Membership shall be composed of other allied health professionals (LPC's, LCSW's, Psychologists, etc.) that opt for membership and benefits of MAMFT.

**Section 2.** The membership of the Association shall have two (2) categories for voting members.

- (A) Voting Members. The voting membership shall be composed of all Clinical Members who maintain an address of record in the organization with the MAMFT office.
- (B) Non-voting Members. The non-voting membership shall be composed of Clinical Associate Members, Student Members, and Affiliate Members who maintain an address of record in the organization with the MAMFT office.

**Section 3.** All members of the Association shall be members in good standing of the MAMFT, and all MAMFT members maintaining an address of record with MAMFT office shall be members in good standing with MAMFT.

**Section 4.** All members shall be governed by and abide by the bylaws of the MAMFT and rules and orders lawfully made thereunder.

**Section 5.** All members shall pay their dues directly to MAMFT.

#### *ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS*

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

**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 MAMFT 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 a 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 Association and Board during the absence of the President.

**Section 4.** The Secretary shall serve a term of three (3) years. The Secretary shall keep the records of all business meetings of the Association 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 assisting the Executive Director with all official correspondence of the Association. The Secretary will also assist the Treasurer in matters pertaining to the finances of MAMFT.

**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 Association, shall prepare the annual budget, and shall present periodic financial reports to the Board and an Annual report to the membership. The fiscal year of the Association 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.** Officers shall be assumed to have resigned from office at such time as they move outside the Association geographic boundaries. If any Officer ceases to be in good standing by reason of nonpayment of dues the Board shall declare his/her office to be vacant.

**Section 8.** If any office, other than President or President-Elect becomes vacant, the Board may appoint a successor to fill the office. In the event that the President is unable to complete the current term of office, the President-Elect shall assume the presidential duties and office, and a special election shall be called to elect a new President-Elect through a ballot by the voting membership. In the event that the President-Elect is unable to complete the current term of office, a special election shall be called to elect a successor through a ballot by the voting membership. In any event, the term of the presidency shall not be for less than two (2) years nor more than three (3) years.

#### *ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers, two (2) Directors, a (1) Clinical Associate Member Representative (LMFTA) and a (1) Student Member Representative, all members of the MAMFT who are in good standing. The Student Member Representative shall be a current student or recent graduate (within 2 years) of a COAMFTE accredited or a CACREP accredited program. The

directors shall serve two (2) year terms, staggered so that one (1) director shall be replaced each year. The Clinical Associate Member Representative (LMFTA) and the Student Member Representative shall serve a two (2) year term.

In order for a member to be eligible for service as President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, or Directors, Clinical Associate Member Representative, or Student Member Representative, s/he must be a current active member of MAMFT.

**Section 2.** The Board shall exercise all powers of the Association except as prohibited by these 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 to exercise authority over all MAMFT 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. A majority of Board members making the quorum must be Clinical Members. Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and may take part and vote in person or by synchronous video conferencing. The meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, revised.

**Section 4.** If a position becomes vacant, the position may remain vacant or the Board may appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the unexpired term, except that vacancies in the offices of the President and President-Elect shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 8.

#### *ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES*

**Section 1.** The two (2) standing committees of MAMFT shall include the following: Education & Ethics, and Membership & Elections, and such other standing committees as shall be authorized by the Board. The Committees are responsible to the Board. Membership numbers in standing committees may vary and determined by the need for active participation at a given time as determined by the Board.

**Section 2.** All standing committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board, except the Membership & Elections Committee. Terms of office ordinarily shall be two (2) 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. Committee members 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 Membership & Elections Committee shall be elected by ballot by the voting membership of the MAMFT, and shall serve a term of two (2) years, staggered so that one (1) member shall be replaced each year.

**Section 4.** The Chairperson shall be a Director of the Board of Directors of MAMFT, with each Director serving as either the Chair of the Membership & Elections Committee or the Chair of the Education & Ethics Committee.

**Section 5.** The Education & 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 BOE. This committee shall function as providing educational opportunities and information only.

**Section 6.** The Membership & Elections Committee shall be responsible for dispensing information on MAMFT membership requirements and application procedures to potential members and otherwise

encouraging appropriate inquiry and application to MAMFT. They shall also be responsible for preparing a slate of nominees for all elected 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 7.** Clinical Associate Member Representative (LMFTA) shall be elected by ballot of the voting membership of the MAMFT following nominations from the Board, and shall serve a term of two (2) years. She/he shall be an associate member in good standing and serve as a full voting member. The Clinical Associate Member Representative will support standing committees with the execution of administrative tasks and assigned responsibilities related to the proper functioning outlined in organizations bylaws, while participating in board meetings, committee meetings, and specific assigned tasks that prompt the mission of the organization.

**Section 8.** Student Member Representative shall be elected by ballot of the voting membership of the MAMFT following nominations from the Board, and shall serve a term of two (2) years. The student Member Representative shall be a current student or recent graduate (within the last 2 years) of a COAMFTE or CACREP accredited program and serve as a full voting member of Board. She/He will serve as a student representative while participating in board meetings, committee assignments and specific assigned tasks related to the Membership and Elections Committee.

#### *ARTICLE VII. Meetings of the Membership*

**Section 1.** The annual meeting of the membership shall be held on 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 and special meetings shall be sent by the Board of Directors to all voting members of the MAMFT at least 45 days in advance of the meeting. Action at such meetings 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 MAMFT shall be ten (10) percent of the voting membership of the MAMFT, present in person or via synchronous video conferencing 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 VIII. Nominations and Elections*

**Section 1.** The nomination and election of all elected positions shall be conducted annually. All voting members of the MAMFT shall have the right to vote in the election which shall be conducted by ballot. However, Student and Associate Clinical Members shall only have the right to vote in the election for the Student-Association Representative to the Board. Discrimination in election and nomination procedures on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, age or 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 Membership & Elections Committee shall make reasonable efforts to prepare a slate containing at least two 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 the majority of votes for each office shall be elected. Ballots shall be counted by the Board or by tellers designated by the Board. Ballot must be approved by two-thirds vote of the voting members voting by ballot and must be

returned within thirty (30) days of the date by which members can reasonably be presumed to have received the ballot.

*ARTICLE IX. Dues*

**Section 1.** Dues for the MAMFT shall be established by majority vote of the MAMFT's Board, except in such instances where the proposed increase is greater than ten (10) percent of the previous year's dues. In that event, dues shall be set by a majority of votes cast by the voting members within MAMFT, voting by ballot under the procedures established by the MAMFT Board.

**Section 2.** All dues billings and dues collections shall be performed by MAMFT.

*ARTICLE X. 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.

*ARTICLE XI. Dissolution and Termination*

**Section 1.** Dissolution of MAMFT is authorized if:

- (A) Approved by the Board; and
- (B) Approved by 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.

**Section 2.** If MAMFT dissolves, all assets of MAMFT remaining after the payment of all debts will be transferred to a successor corporation to MAMFT or as determined by the Board.