

By-Laws of the
SECTION OF FAMILY & JUVENILE LAW
of the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc.

Amended December 2003

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

SECTION 1. This Section shall be known as the Section of Family and Juvenile Law.

SECTION 2. Its purpose shall be to promote the objectives of the Maryland State Bar Association by improving the administration of justice in the field of family and juvenile law and at the same time to bring together for furtherance of their mutual interests members of the Maryland State Bar Association concerned with family and juvenile laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise.

ARTICLE II

Membership and Dues

SECTION 1. All members of the Section of Family and Juvenile Law shall be members of the Maryland State Bar Association and shall pay, in addition to their annual dues for membership in the Association, annual Section dues in such amount and at such time as shall be determined by the Section Council, with approval of the Board of Governors.

SECTION 2. Procedures and policies governing the collection, deposit, and expenditure of section dues including termination of Section membership for non-payment, shall be as prescribed by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE III

Officers and Council

SECTION 1. The officers of this Section shall consist of a Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past Chair. The office of Treasurer shall be filled at the 2004 annual meeting and annually thereafter in accordance with these By-Laws

SECTION 2. There shall be a Section Council, the voting members of which shall consist of the officers and fifteen (15) voting members-at-large (which shall include one (1) "academic" member who shall be associated, either full or part-time, with the Family Law programs and/or clinics at the University of Maryland or University of Baltimore Schools of Law (the "law schools")). The non-voting members shall consist of all other past chairs of the Section. The other past chairs shall be given notice of all meetings of the Council and shall have the right to attend and participate in discussions, provided they remain members of the Section.

SECTION 3. The officers shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Section, to hold office for the term beginning upon the adjournment of the annual meeting at which they shall have been elected and ending upon the adjournment of the next succeeding annual meeting of the Sections.

SECTION 4. Commencing in 2002, five (5) members-at-large shall be elected to serve for three (3) years. Thereafter, five (5) members-at-large shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Section for terms of three (3) years beginning at the close of such annual meeting. Commencing in 2004, one (1) member-at-large who is associated either full or part-time with a law school (the "academic member") shall be elected for a term of three (3) years; however, the Council, by a majority vote, may decrease or continue the term of the academic member after consideration of any facts or circumstances the Council deems appropriate to maintain continuity in the relationship between the Council and the respective law schools.

ARTICLE IV

Duties and Powers of Officers

SECTION 1. *Chair.* The Chair, or Chair-Elect in the absence of the Chair, shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Council. The Chair shall superintend the performance of all activities of the Section. The Chair shall appoint all committees and shall keep the Council informed on all section activities for which the Chair shall be responsible. The Chair shall present at each annual meeting of the Maryland State Bar Association a report of the work of the section for the then closing year. The Chair shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office or as may be designated by the Council.

SECTION 2. *Chair-Elect.* The Chair-Elect shall assist the Chair in the performance of all the latter's duties and perform such further duties as usually pertain to his office or as may be designated by the Council or the Chair. In case of the death, resignation or disability of the Chair, the Chair-Elect shall perform the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the latter's term or disability, as the case may be.

SECTION 3. *Secretary.* The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Council and of the Section. The Secretary further shall perform such other duties as may reasonably be requested of the Secretary by the Chair of the Section or as may be prescribed by the Council and, in cooperation with the Chair, shall draft an appropriate report of Section activities for publication in the annual report of the Maryland State Bar Association.

SECTION 4. *Treasurer.* The Treasurer shall keep a record of the expenditures of the Council and the Section and report on all financial matters to the Council. The Treasurer further shall perform such other duties as may reasonably be requested of the Treasurer by the Chair of the Section or as may be prescribed by the Council and, in cooperation with the Chair, prepare and submit the proposed annual budget to the Maryland State Bar Association.

ARTICLE V

Duties and Powers of the Council

SECTION 1. The Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section subject to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Maryland State Bar Association and the By-Laws of this Section. During the interval between the meetings of the Section, the Council shall have full authority to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself would be authorized to act, and any such action taken by the Council pursuant to this provision shall be reported to the members of the Section at the next Annual meeting of the Section.

SECTION 2. The Council shall meet at or about the time and place of each Annual meeting of the Maryland State Bar Association and may meet in regular or special session at any other time or place as may be scheduled by the Council or on the call of the Chair or three members of the Council.

SECTION 3. The Council may authorize the Chair to appoint committees of Section members to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Council may direct, subject to the limitations of these By-Laws and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Maryland State Bar Association.

SECTION 4. Except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws, the Council, during the interim between the Annual meetings of the Section, shall fill vacancies in its own membership and in Section offices. Members and officers so selected shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual meeting of the Section or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. Unless excused therefrom by the Chair, or by vote of the Council, if any officer or member-at-large of the Council shall fail to attend two successive regular meetings of the Council without reasonable excuse for such absences, the office held by such officer or member-at-large shall thereafter be deemed vacant automatically, and the Council shall thereupon fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

SECTION 5. Except where elsewhere specifically provided all binding action of the Council shall be by a vote of at least five (5) members thereof.

SECTION 6. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE VI

Nomination and Election of Officers and Council Members

SECTION 1. A Nominating Committee of not fewer than three (3) nor more than seven (7) persons shall be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual meeting of the Maryland State Bar Association each year.

SECTION 2. The Nominating Committee shall, in the selection of nominees for the Council, receive and consider suggestions for nominations of qualified persons, taking into consideration the nominee's geographic location, familiarity with the Section, capability, availability to serve, and past service to the Section. The Chair-Elect shall automatically succeed to the office of Chair for the next succeeding year without nomination.

SECTION 3. The names of all nominees shall be transmitted to the Section membership through the Maryland State Bar at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual meeting of the Section. By petition of fifteen (15) members of the Section, additional nominations may be made and submitted prior to or at such meeting. If no additional members are made, the slate of the Nominating Committee, or so much thereof as may be unopposed, shall stand elected.

SECTION 4. The Section, at its Annual meeting, shall elect officers (except the Chair), and fill the vacancies of the members of the Council from persons duly nominated in accordance with this Article. In contested elections, voting may be by voice vote or by written ballot in the discretion of the Chair.

ARTICLE VII

Meeting of the Section

SECTION 1. The Annual meeting of the Section shall be held in one or more sessions at or about the time of the Annual meeting of the Maryland State Bar Association, in the same place that such Annual meeting is held, with such program and order of business as may be arranged by the Chair with the approval of the Council.

SECTION 2. Special meetings of the Section may be called by the Chair upon approval of the Council, at such time and place as the Council may determine.

SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided, the members of the Section present at any Section meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 4. Except as otherwise provided, all binding action of the Section shall be by majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE VIII

Miscellaneous Provisions

SECTION 1. Fiscal Year. The Fiscal Year of the Section shall be the same as that of the Maryland State Bar Association which at the present time begins on June 1st and ends on May 31st.

SECTION 2. All bills incurred by the Section, or by any of its officers, before being paid shall be cleared with the Chair, notwithstanding the expenditure may have been authorized by the Council.

SECTION 3. No salary or compensation may be paid to any member of the Section.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members thereof or at any Annual meeting of the Section by two-thirds of the members there present and voting.

ARTICLE X
Effective Date

These By-Laws, as amended, shall become effective on January 14th, 2004. A copy hereof shall be transmitted to the Board of Governors of the Maryland State Bar Association for publication.