

## **BYLAWS**

### **Illinois Association for Play Therapy**

#### **ARTICLE I - General**

##### **Section 1. Organization Name**

The name of the organization is the Illinois Association for Play Therapy (IL-APT).

##### **Section 2. Mission & Scope**

The mission of IL-APT, the state branch affiliated with Association for Play Therapy, Inc. (APT) a national professional society in the United States, shall be to promote the value of play, play therapy, and credentialed play therapists. To satisfy this mission, IL-APT will advance the psycho-social development and mental health of all people through play and play therapy by promoting and supporting those programs, services, and related activities that promote the:

- A. Understanding and valuing of play and play therapy
- B. Effective practice of play therapy through training, research, and support
- C. Recognition, incorporation, and preservation of diversity in play therapy
- D. Development and maintenance of a strong professional organization to accomplish these objectives

##### **Section 3. Organizational Status**

The Illinois Association for Play Therapy (IL-APT) is the state branch affiliated with the Association for Play Therapy (APT), a nonprofit and nonpartisan Illinois mutual benefit corporation that shall conduct its affairs in conformity with all local, state, and federal laws that apply to an organization in accordance with Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, Section 23701(e) of the Illinois Revenue & Taxation Code, and any related or successive statutes and regulations. IL-APT shall conduct its affairs in compliance with the Bylaws of that organization. IL-APT shall use its funds and other assets only to satisfy the purpose of IL-APT and no part of such shall inure or be distributed to officers, directors, or other persons within or outside of IL-APT.

##### **Section 4. Organizational Rights and Powers**

IL-APT is deemed to be a separate and independent corporate entity for the purpose of making contracts, incurring liabilities, and acquiring rights, and of suing and being sued in any state or federal court. IL-APT shall comply with applicable federal, state, municipal and other applicable laws and regulations, including all civil rights laws and regulations and accessibility and accommodation requirements which may arise pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act and similar statutes or ordinances.

#### **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

##### **Section 1. Purpose**

The purpose of IL-APT is to provide a forum for the discussion of play therapy ideas and concerns.

##### **Section 2. Objectives**

The objectives of IL-APT shall be to:

- A. Provide ongoing professional development of its members
- B. Promote training, research, and the development of materials which further the practice of play therapy

- C. Provide opportunities for active communication regarding play therapy
- D. Inform and educate the general public and the mental health community concerning the role of play therapy in referral, assessment, and treatment
- E. Advance high standards of professional conduct and respond to possible unethical conduct of play therapy practitioners
- F. Advocate for the rights of children, their families, and significant others

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Categories of Membership**

IL-APT shall offer three (3) categories of membership to individuals interested in promoting the purpose of APT and able to satisfy the applicable membership requirements:

- A. **Professional:** An individual mental health professional with at least a Master's mental health degree who resides within the United States and is a member of both APT and IL-APT.
- B. **International:** An individual mental health professional residing outside of the United States who is a member of APT.
- C. **Affiliate:** A full-time student, professionals in related fields such as education, childcare, or medical practitioners, or other individual non-mental health professional who is a member of both APT and IL-APT. A retired and inactive mental health professional residing in the United States may choose to either remain a Professional member or become an Affiliate member.

### **Section 2. Residency of Members**

There is no residency requirement for membership in IL-APT.

### **Section 3. Dues & Powers of Members**

A member in good standing shall pay the dues, fees and other assessments in the amount, manner, and time period established for that membership category, is entitled to utilize and participate in IL-APT benefits, programs, and other activities, and if a Professional member, may vote as described elsewhere in these Bylaws. Membership is transferable upon relocation to a different state.

### **Section 4. Termination & Expulsion of Members**

Severance of membership can take place if any of the following applies:

- A. Resignation or death of the member
- B. Dues are not paid
- C. APT severs membership due to unethical conduct
- D. A state licensing certification board takes away licensing based on unethical conduct
- E. A professional organization other than APT severs membership due to unethical conduct
- F. Unethical conduct which is not being addressed by any of the above organizations is brought to the attention of IL-APT, the Governing Body will form a committee in order to consider whether severance of membership should occur

## **ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Officers of IL-APT**

The Officers of IL-APT shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Director of Training, and the Director of Membership.

### **Section 2. Officers shall be Elected**

All officers of IL-APT shall be elected from the voting members of the Association and shall serve for two (2) years.

### **Section 3. Board of Directors Defined**

The Officers as listed in Article IV Section 1 shall comprise the Board of Directors for IL-APT.

### **Section 4. Death or Resignation of an Officer**

Upon the death, resignation or other vacancy of any office before the end of an officer's term, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 5. Membership Status of Officers**

All officers of IL-APT shall be members in good standing of APT.

### **Section 6. Organizational Records**

The Secretary shall monitor and assure that all appropriate proceedings of IL-APT are accurately recorded and maintained in the corporate records.

### **Section 7. Committees & Task Forces**

The IL-APT board may appoint advisory committees and task forces deemed necessary by the Board to render advice and information to the Board.

## **ARTICLE V - GOVERNANCE**

### **Section 1. Governing Body**

The Governing Body of IL-APT shall be comprised of the Board of Directors described in Article IV. All decisions of the Governing Body will be made by a consensus. A quorum of 60% or more of members of the Governing Body is required.

### **Section 2. Powers and Duties**

The powers and duties of the Governing Body include:

- A. Maintaining membership records
- B. Providing communications as needed to the membership
- C. Coordinating communications as required by APT
- D. Maintaining minutes of council meetings
- E. Responding to reports of unethical conduct by play therapy practitioners
- F. Forming committees as needed to fulfill mission of organization to provide training and research to promote play therapy
- G. Enforcing the bylaws of IL-APT
- H. Providing for the holding of elections of Board of Directors members

- I. Maintaining historical records for the activities for the activities of IL-APT
- J. Maintaining financial records including the collection and management of membership dues and other monies
- K. Other duties and powers as needed to serve the purpose of IL-APT

#### **Section 4. Meetings**

The Governing Body will meet a minimum of once yearly. Thirty days written or electronic notice of all meetings to all Governing Body members is required.

### **Article VI - INDEMNIFICATION**

#### **Section 1. Of Officers and Directors**

The Board shall indemnify any or all officers and directors against expenses incurred by them in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding in which they are made a party in which such persons shall be adjudicated to have been responsible for misconduct resulting in harm or damages.

#### **Section 2. Of the Association for Play Therapy**

IL-APT shall indemnify and hold harmless the Association for Play Therapy (APT) and its officers, directors, members, employees, and other agents from and against all claims, demands, and liabilities (including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs) asserted by third parties arising from the indemnifying party's performance within and outside of its Branch Charter Agreement. This obligation to indemnify and hold harmless shall survive the expiration or termination of said Agreement.

### **ARTICLE VII - FINANCES**

#### **Section 1. Dues**

IL-APT dues amounts for each membership category shall be recommended by APT and collected by APT.

#### **Section 2. Financial Statement**

The Board of Directors shall prepare and present a financial statement including income and expenses to the membership at each annual meeting of IL-APT.

#### **Section 3. Authorization of Expenditures**

The Board of Directors shall deposit and disperse funds in the name and to the credit of IL-APT.

#### **Section 4. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year shall begin on August 1 and end July 31.

#### **Section 5. Training and Workshops**

- A. Fees and expenses for training and workshops provided by IL-APT will be determined by the Governing Body.
- B. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, all Governing Body Members will have fees waived to attend IL-APT sponsored training and workshops.

## **ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1. Process for Amendment**

These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of IL-APT by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of members present and voting.

### **Section 2. Who May Initiate Amendment**

Proposals to amend the bylaws may be initiated by any member of IL-APT.

### **Section 3. Proposing Amendment**

Proposals to amend the bylaws should be received and processed under the same format as the ballot nominations. (See Article VII)

### **Section 4. Alternative Voting Procedure**

Should the Board of Directors deem an amendment to be of an urgent nature, a mailing (ground or electronic) to the general membership will be initiated.

### **Section 5. Approval of Proposal**

All proposed amendments must be approved by the Board of Directors of APT.

Revised: 3/20/18

IL-APT Membership Approval: 3/22/2018