

## **BY-LAWS**

### **CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SECTION**

#### **STATE BAR OF GEORGIA**

##### **ARTICLE I**

**Section 1:** The name of this Section shall be the "**Child Protection and Advocacy Section.**"

**Section 2:** The purpose of this Section shall be to promote the objectives of the State Bar of Georgia within the field of Child Protection and Advocacy. The Section shall provide a forum for dissemination of information on aspects of juvenile law practice related to children: prosecution and agency representation, parent representation, child representation, and guardian ad litem work in dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings in Juvenile and Probate Courts; defense and prosecution of delinquency and status offender or CHINS (Children in Need of Services) cases; miscellaneous Juvenile Court advocacy regarding competency, emancipation, investigation and / or determinations of custody matters transferred from Superior Court, and parental notification issues; and handling of adoption proceedings. The Section shall additionally focus on quasi-judicial procurement of social security disability, Medicaid, and other entitlements and issues related to education law and policy, including representation at school tribunals, advocacy in IEP and other meetings and other reform efforts designed to best support children's needs in the educational setting. The Section will participate in efforts to keep members informed of changing federal and state laws and of agency rules, policies, and regulations and to enhance the practice of law relevant to children, except for matters related to matrimonial law as covered by the Family Law Section. The Section shall cooperate with and assist the Younger Lawyer's Division's Juvenile Law Committee in its endeavors and activities on behalf of children and may elect to assist in other related activities, upon request.

##### **ARTICLE II**

###### **Membership and Dues**

**Section 1:** Each member of this Section shall be a member in good standing of the State Bar. Any member of the State Bar, upon request and payment of annual Section dues of \$20.00 for the current year, shall be enrolled as a member of this Section. Thereafter, such dues shall be paid in advance each year at the time of the payment of dues to the State Bar. Members so enrolled and whose dues are so paid shall constitute the membership of this Section. Any member whose annual dues shall be more than six (6) months past due thereupon shall cease to be a member and shall be dropped from the rolls of the Section, subject to reinstatement at any

time upon the payment of dues on the current year.

## ARTICLE III

### Officers

**Section 1:** The Officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Section.

**Section 2:** Each Officer shall hold office for a term beginning at the close of the annual meeting of the Section at which the officer is elected and ending at the close of the next succeeding annual meeting of the Section and until a successor shall have been elected and qualified. If a vacancy shall arise in the office of Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall become Chairperson for the unexpired term. If a vacancy shall arise in the office of the Chairperson and there is also a vacancy in the office of Vice Chairperson, the President of the State Bar of Georgia shall appoint a successor Chairperson for the unexpired term.

**Section 3:** The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Section, appoint appropriate committees of the Section to serve during his or her term as Chairperson, plan and supervise the program of the Section at its annual meeting, and perform all executive and administrative duties necessary or proper to the organization and functioning of the Section; including any duty as from time to time may be prescribed by the Section or by the State Bar.

**Section 4:** The Vice Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson and in the absence or disability of the Chairperson, shall perform the duties of the Chairperson.

**Section 5:** The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Section, maintain the permanent records, give notices of meetings, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chairperson.

**Section 6:** The Treasurer shall monitor the receipt and disbursement of funds, oversee the activities described in Article VII herein, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chairperson.

## ARTICLE IV

### Meetings of the Section

**Section 1:** An annual meeting of the Section shall be held each year at or about the time and place of the Mid-Year Meeting of the State Bar or a Continuing Legal Education program sponsored by the Section; the date, time and meeting room to be fixed by the Chairperson.

**Section 2:** A Special Meeting of the Section may be called by the Chairperson to be convened at such time and place and with such program and order of business as may be fixed by

the Chairperson.

**Section 3:** Ten (10) members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 4:** All action of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the members of the Section present at any properly called meeting at which a quorum is present.

**Section 5:** At least ten (10) days' written notice of the time and place of each meeting of the Section shall be given by mailing same to each member of the Section on the rolls of the Section in the Office of the State Bar at the member's address as the same appears in said office. However, it shall not be required that any such notice be by a specifically separate mailing; the same may be included in other written or printed material which is being distributed by mail to all members of the State Bar or to any part thereof which is inclusive of all of the members of the Section.

## ARTICLE V

### Executive Committee

**Section 1:** The Executive Committee of the Section shall consist of the four officers of the Section, the Past Chairman, and at least five other members of the Section appointed by the Chairperson, whose terms shall be co-existent with that of the Chairperson. Efforts shall be made to include representatives of the many and various types of practices of lawyers who are members of the Section, as well as to include diversity of location in the State. Six members of the Executive Committee, either in person or on the telephone, shall constitute a quorum, and motions may be passed by a majority of those present.

**Section 2:** The Executive Committee 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 Executive Committee pursuant to this provision shall be reported to the members of the Section at the next Annual Meeting of the Section.

## ARTICLE VI

### Elections

**Section 1:** Prior to each annual meeting of the Section, the Chairperson shall appoint not less than three (3) members of the Section to be a nominating committee which shall nominate one or more members of the Section as qualified to hold each of the offices of the Section for the ensuing terms of office. The report of the nominating committee shall be made to the annual meeting; thereafter, and, prior to the election of Officers, any member of the Section present at the annual meeting may nominate any other member of the Section for election to any of the offices.

**Section 2:** The names of all members of the Section nominated for each office either by the nominating committee or from the floor shall be submitted to the annual meeting, and ballots shall be cast until there shall be a majority of the members of the Section present favoring the election of a designated member to an office. Voting shall be *viva-voce*, and the nominee for an office with the lowest number of votes in any ballot shall be dropped from consideration on the next succeeding ballot, provided that any annual meeting, by majority vote of the members of the Section present, may require written secret ballots or otherwise modify the procedure governing any election.

## ARTICLE VII

### Finances

**Section 1:** Funds of the Section shall be deposited in the treasury of the State Bar of Georgia and shall be disbursed by the treasurer of the State Bar of Georgia to pay bills of the Section which have been approved for payment by any Officer of the Section.

**Section 2:** Funds of the Section shall be expended for such purposes related to the activities of the Section as from time to time shall be authorized by the Section's Executive Committee.

**Section 3:** Officers and members of the Section shall not be compensated for services thereto.

**Section 4:** A financial report of the funds of the Section shall be rendered at each annual meeting thereof. This Section shall have the same fiscal year as the State Bar.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Miscellaneous

**Section 1:** The Section shall from time to time conduct programs for the continuing education in the world and field of this Section, and may coordinate its efforts in this regard with the other Sections of the State Bar of Georgia.

**Section 2:** The Section may from time to time, subject to the Rules, Bylaws and Standing Board Policies of the State Bar, sponsor, promote, study or review proposed legislation within the Purposes specifically set forth in Article I, Section 2 above. The Section may from time to time report on its legislative activities to the State Bar.

**ARTICLE IX**

**Effective Date and Amendment**

**Section 1:** These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by the Board of Governors of the State Bar.

**Section 2:** These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Section present at any properly called meeting at which a quorum is present and subsequent approval thereof by the Board of Governors of the State Bar.

Signed, sealed and subscribed before  
the undersigned this the \_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Witness**

Approved by the Board of Governors  
the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRPERSON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PRESIDENT**

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