

**BY-LAWS OF THE  
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICES  
Effective Date: October 17, 2006**

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

SECTION I. The name of this organization shall be the Texas Association of Domestic Relations Offices.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

SECTION I. This organization is established to:

Maintain and operate an Association for county governmental offices and their employees on matters relating to collection, recording and disbursement of child support, the enforcement or establishment of orders providing for the possession, support, or access to a child, the informational, referral, and counseling services to assist parties affected by such court orders, and to advance, promote, and encourage all efforts necessary to carry out said purposes, including but not limited to the following specific functions:

- a. promote education of and information to members of the organization and to the communities we serve;
- b. promote legislation in furtherance of the purposes of the organization;
- c. promote alternative resources and resolution of conflicts in family litigation in non-traditional ways;
- d. promote effective local response to state and federal issues.

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION I. Membership to the Association shall consist of three (3) types;

- 1.) Charter
- 2.) Individual
- 3.) Affiliate

SECTION II. Charter membership shall be available to Harris County Domestic Relations Office, Tarrant County Domestic Relations Office, and Travis County Domestic Relations Office, which are the original founders of this Association.

SECTION III. Individual membership shall be available to any individual who is actively employed by a Texas County Governmental Office whose principal purpose is consistent with Article II of the By-Laws of this Association, or any other person whom the Board deems eligible by majority vote.

SECTION IV. Affiliate membership shall be available to any County office, corporation or firm whose principal business is the provision of services which support the membership offices in this Association. Affiliate membership is by Board approval only and its rights of participation are regulated by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IV. DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION I. Charter Membership is perpetual.

SECTION II. Individual and affiliate membership shall correspond to the period commencing at the annual conference in which registered and extending to the next following Annual Conference.

**ARTICLE V. ANNUAL DUES**

SECTION I. Annual dues for charter, individual and affiliate membership shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of this Association and may be amended by majority vote of the Board.

SECTION II. To be a member registered in good standing, dues shall be paid each year at the annual conference, but no later than December 31, for the next calendar year, or may be payable in conjunction with the annual conference fee.

SECTION III. Failure to pay dues of membership by the above stated dates shall be cause for removal from the Association membership and all rights thereto.

SECTION IV. Reinstatement to Association membership after removal shall be by application only and with approval of the Board Members.

**ARTICLE VI. VOTING RIGHTS**

SECTION I. All members, who are registered in good standing are entitled to one (1) vote. Individual members do not have to be present at the meeting in which a vote is called, and may cast his/her vote in a manner approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION II. Voting rights for charter and individual members shall be limited to the annual election of the Board of Directors and amendments to the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- SECTION I.
- A.) The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of eleven (11) persons elected from individual members by charter and individual members at the annual conference. The vote shall be conducted in a manner approved by the Board of Directors. Board of Directors are elected at the annual conference.
  - B.) Board members shall serve a two (2) year term beginning at the annual conference at which elected and continuing until the annual conference two years following election. There shall be 2 positions on the board, those elected in the annual conference of even-numbered years and those elected at the annual conference in odd-numbered years. At the annual conference in 2002, board members shall be elected to terms of 2-years or 1-year. Those elected to a term of 1-year will be replaced in 2003 (odd-numbered year) by board members elected for a 2-year term. The members of the board adopting these by laws, as amended, shall not serve on the board after December 31, 2002, unless elected at the annual conference in 2002.
  - C.) Charter members shall have a permanent position on the Board of Directors, that seat to be filled by appointment by the Charter County. Any DRO with more than 20 employees which is not a Charter County will be represented by at least one seat on the board. All other members of the board are at-large.
  - D.) The Board of Directors shall carry out all duties named herein and shall effect any and all policies, and/or procedures required by the Association Articles of Incorporation and/or By-Laws.
  - E.) No more than two (2) members on the Board may be from the same County.
  - F.) Any vacancy of directors shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
  - G.) Each Director elected to the Board must be a member in

good standing at the time of election and must remain a member in good standing. Failure to maintain these standards may result in removal from the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Members of the Board are also subject to removal for failure to maintain dues, failure to discharge the duties of a Board member in a conscientious manner to include but not limited to failure to attend 2 consecutive meetings of the Board or other acts contrary to the interest of TADRO.

H.) Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held:

1. At the annual conference at which meeting Board Members may not attend by teleconference.
2. During the sixth (6) month immediately following the annual conference at a time and location set by the President at which meeting Board Members may not attend by teleconference.
3. Additional meetings may be held upon the call of the President at a time and location set by the President, or the written petition of a majority of the members of the Board at a time and location set by the petition. At such meeting held under this subsection, Board Members may attend by teleconference.
4. Meetings other than as stated above may be held by email to consider and vote on a single issue that, in the discretion of the President, does not merit a regular or teleconference meeting. If an issue is presented or brought to the attention of the President that the President determines needs immediate action, the President shall notify the members of the Board by email and set a date certain for response. During that period, any member of the board may move adoption of a proposal or second a motion. If a proposal is moved and seconded, the President shall send the motions by email to all members of the board with a deadline for voting. All members voting by the deadline will be deemed "present" and the question resolved by simple majority of those present.

## **ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS**

- SECTION I. The Officers of the Association shall be President, President-elect, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- SECTION II. All Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors from the individual memberships at the Association's annual conference. All officers shall be elected by majority vote and hold office for one (1) year commencing at the annual conference at which elected until the annual conference next following except the President-elect who shall be automatically the President the following year. The vote shall be conducted in a manner approved by the Board of Directors. The President shall not serve two (2) consecutive terms.
- SECTION III. The duty of the President is to call the meetings at the direction of the Board, preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors, and to perform all duties required to carry out the purposes of the Association. He/She shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The President is responsible to the Board of Directors. The President shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee.
- SECTION IV. The Vice-President shall perform all duties of the President in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall perform all other duties as delegated by the President or Board of Directors. In the event of the removal, resignation or other cause preventing the President from completing his/her term or performing the duties of the office, the Vice-President shall become the President for the balance of the term with all the duties and responsibilities of that office. With the consent of the Vice-President, the board may elect an Interim President to complete the term. The Vice-President shall serve as Chair of the Membership Committee.
- SECTION V. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall record, maintain, and make available the minutes of the annual conference to all the Association membership within sixty (60) days following the conclusion of the annual conference and/or all other Association Board meetings. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all records of the organization.
- SECTION VI. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all membership fees collected in the name of the Association and shall maintain such fees in a depository selected by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall mail annual dues statements to the membership and maintain an

accurate audit at all times of all monies, showing from whom the monies were collected; any and all monies expended and the required signatures of those designated by the Board who approved such expenditures. The Treasurer shall provide a financial report through the last day of the preceding month at any meeting of the membership, Board or Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall serve as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

SECTION VII. The President-elect shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

SECTION VIII. Any vacancy of an Officer's position shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

SECTION IX. Any Officer may be removed from office, and the President-elect may be barred from becoming President, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for failure to maintain dues, failure to discharge the duties of the office in a conscientious manner including but not limited to failure to attend 2 consecutive meetings of the Board or other acts contrary to the interests of TADRO.

#### **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

- SECTION I.
- A.) All proposals to amend the Association By-Laws must be submitted in proper written form to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual conference.
  - B.) At the direction of the Board, the Secretary shall mail the proposed Amendments to each voting member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the annual conference in which such proposals shall be considered.
  - C.) All proposed amendments under consideration shall be presented to the voting membership during the annual conference.
  - D.) Each proposed amendment must receive at least a majority vote at the Association meeting.
  - E.) Amendments to the By-Laws shall be effective immediately at the annual conference at which they are adopted.

#### **ARTICLE X. ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

SECTION I. The Board of Directors shall convene the members of this Association on an annual basis at a time and location established

by the Board with prior notice given to the membership.

SECTION II. The Board of Directors shall establish a registration fee for each annual conference and shall further determine what portions of the fees to be collected shall be expended in the presentation of its annual conference.

#### **ARTICLE XI. STANDING COMMITTEE**

SECTION I. The Executive Committee (Article XII) and the Nominating Committee (Article XIII) set forth herein below are standing committees. In addition, there shall be Standing Committees for:

- i. Government Affairs and Contracts
- ii. Legislation
- iii. Membership
- iv. Budget and Finance

SECTION II. The Government Affairs and Contracts Committee shall review and recommend policies regarding contracts and other intergovernmental relations. The committee chair shall be appointed by the President of TADRO.

SECTION III. The Membership Committee shall promote and develop membership in the organization, consider and advocate membership affairs and activities and be responsible to develop the benefits of membership. The Committee Chair shall be the Vice-President of TADRO.

SECTION IV. The Legislation Committee shall review proposed legislation and recommend legislation to be proposed or supported by the Association. The committee chair shall be appointed by the President of TADRO.

SECTION V. The Budget and Finance Committee shall recommend financial policies and an Annual Budget. The Annual Budget shall be presented by the committee to the Board as directed by the President at the Annual Conference upon the election of the President but in no event more than 90 days following the date of the election of the Board. The Annual Budget will include the Executive Committee discretionary authority at Article XII, Section V. The Treasurer shall chair the Budget and Finance Committee.

SECTION VI. All other committees are special committees that terminate at the annual conference next following committee appointment.

## **ARTICLE XII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- SECTION I. For purpose of expediting action, communication and response to issues, there will be an Executive Committee.
- SECTION II. The Executive Committee will be composed of the President, President-elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past-President. The President shall Chair the Executive Committee.
- SECTION III. The Executive Committee will meet on the call of the President. Any other 3 members of the Executive Committee can call a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- SECTION IV. The Executive Committee shall serve as the planning committee of the Board.
- SECTION V. The Executive Committee may commit expenditures up to \$250 per transaction and \$1000 per year without board approval or ratification.

## **ARTICLE XIII. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- SECTION I. There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed by the President not later than 60 days preceding the annual conference each year, beginning 2003. The Nominating Committee shall consist of 3 members of the Board of Directors and the President-elect shall Chair the Nominating Committee.
- SECTION II. The Nominating Committee shall make and report nominations to all vacancies on the Board of Directors and Officers for election at the annual conference.
- SECTION III. There shall be no restriction to nominations from the floor other than those put forth by the Nominating Committee.

## **ARTICLE XIV. PERMANENT ADDRESS**

- SECTION I. The permanent mailing address of the organization shall be in Austin, Texas at a location determined by the Board unless the Board by majority vote selects an alternate location at the annual conference.