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*The Florida Association of Private Investigators, Inc. is incorporated in the State of Florida. The Document Number for this corporation is P05000163133. The date of incorporation was December 15, 2005 and was filed by Harvey E. Morse, President, and Ari S. Morse, Vice-President. The initial corporate mailing address is: 2435 South Ridgewood Avenue, Volusia County, South Daytona, Florida, 32119.*

**Article I. Name**

The name of this corporation is the Florida Association of Private Investigators, Inc., (hereinafter referred to as either the “Association” or “FAPI”).

**Article II. Mission and Vision**

The mission of the Association is to bring all Private Investigators together, primarily those who are licensed in the State of Florida, in addition to suppliers of services, education, training and equipment. The Association is dedicated to improving the professionalism of the industry, affecting change in legislation or other governing rules and regulations when necessary, promoting a positive image of the private investigative profession to society, and attempting to resolve issues of concern. It shall also be a source of educational training for the professional enhancement of its members. It shall have an Annual Meeting and shall attempt to make that experience accessible to the widest possible audience. The Association may initiate, present or participate in activities and functions in support of its mission, including promoting the advantages of utilizing private investigative services to the legal community and the general public.

***It is the goal of this organization to allow membership to the greatest number of Florida licensees, to insure that the Association has the strongest voice for the profession in the State of Florida.***

**Article III. Membership**

**Section 1.**

The Association shall have the following categories of membership: Active, Associate, Affiliate, Honorary, Active-Life, Life, and Emeritus. The Executive Committee may, upon majority vote, establish additional membership categories and the criteria for same, and may revoke any membership regardless of category, by a two-thirds vote.

**Charter Member:**

At the inception of this Association, a limited number of Charter Memberships were made available at a special fee, which granted the privilege of using the designation, “Charter Member.”  Each Charter Member met all of the requirements of an Active Member.  Charter Memberships are no longer available.

**Active Member:**

Individuals and business entities holding a current Florida investigative license, pursuant to Florida State Statute Chapter 493, or any successor statute, shall be eligible to become an Active Member of the Association.

**Active – Life Member**

Individual and business entities who have qualified for and become an “Active Member” of the Association and who wish to express their long term commitment and dedication to FAPI may request that the Executive Committee allow them to meet the requirements, as established by them for designation as an Active - Life member of the Association.

At the first Executive Committee meeting following the Annual Meeting each year, or at any other time, the Executive Committee may establish criteria and set a one-time fee required to attain “Active - Life” membership status.

For the purposes of interpretation of these By-Laws, an Active - Life Member shall be granted all the rights and privileges of an “Active Member” with the exception that all future dues obligations shall be waived.  Active - Life Members shall be subject to all of the rules and regulations of an Active Member.

**Associate Member:**

Individuals and business entities holding similar licenses from other states, jurisdictions or countries including individuals in any recognized form of law enforcement or public safety, shall be eligible to become an Associate Member of the Association.

**Affiliate Member:**

Individuals, suppliers, or business entities in allied fields or support services, shall be eligible to become an Affiliate Member of the Association.

**Honorary Member:**

An Honorary Membership may be granted by the Executive Committee by majority vote. Honorary membership carries no privileges of membership except as may be granted by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors.  No dues or assessments shall be applicable to this membership category.

**Life Member:**

Active or Associate Members who have reached the age of sixty-five years, and who have maintained licensure as a private investigator for at least 15 consecutive years, may apply to the Executive Committee for Life Membership. If granted, all dues, if any, shall be waived.  Maintenance of licensure shall not be required, and they shall be entitled to vote at meetings.  Life members shall not be eligible to hold an elected position on the Board of Directors.

**Emeritus Member:**

The Board of Directors, by majority vote, may grant Emeritus Membership status to any Active, Associate, Affiliate, or Life Member.  Emeritus Members shall have all the rights and privileges granted to an Active member.  If granted, all dues if any shall be waived, and maintenance of licensure shall not be required.

 **Founding Director Emeritus Member:**

The initial Board of Directors by majority vote has granted to Harvey E. Morse, the Founder of this organization, irrevocable Founding Director Emeritus status.  He shall have all rights and privileges granted to an Active Member, and serve as a member of the Executive Committee without any obligation to attend, nor penalty for not attending meetings.  All dues if any shall be waived, and maintenance of licensure shall not be required.

**Student Member:**

The Board of Directors recognizes and applauds those persons who are unlicensed but currently enrolled in or are otherwise attending or participating in recognized educational facilities, training facilities, course instruction including on-line, for the purpose of enhancing their education to potentially become a member of this profession.  Student members shall have such rights and privileges as may be granted by the Board of Directors.  To be eligible for this membership category, the student must be sponsored by an existing member in good standing.

Section 2:

The President shall appoint a Membership Chair who will establish a Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall create an application form(s), and establish its own rules, criteria, policies and procedures for membership which they may modify, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.**

No person who is otherwise qualified for membership may be turned down for reasons of financial hardship, upon proof thereof, to the satisfaction of the President.  All such personal discussions between the member and the President regarding personal finances and hardship shall be kept in strict confidence.

**Section 4.**

Each member of the Association agrees to be bound by the Association’s Code of Ethics, By-Laws, rules, regulations and policies, as may be adopted or amended by the, Executive Committee, the Board of Directors or voting members of the Association.

**Section 5**

No member of the Association shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of the Association, nor shall any member have the authority to enter into any contracts or agreements on behalf of the Association without the advance prior authority of the Executive Committee, except as otherwise provided herein.

**Section 6.**

Membership in good standing is defined as being current in all financial obligations to this Association and not under any disciplinary sanctions, being investigated regarding any violation of these By-Laws or the Code of Ethics, or being the subject of any ongoing governmental action or complaint.

**Article IV. Meetings and Voting**

**Section 1.**

Active Members shall be entitled to attend the Association’s Annual Meeting, any regularly scheduled or special meetings, to vote for members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, be elected to the Board of Directors or Executive Committee, and to enjoy such other privileges as may be granted by the Board of Directors.

Associate Members may attend the Association’s Annual Meeting, any regular or special meetings, and may exercise other privileges as may be granted by the Board of Directors. Associate and/or Affiliate Members may have the right to vote on certain issues as determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, for those specific issues. Out of state licensees who are Associate members in good standing, may be appointed to the Advisory Committee set forth herein.

All other members shall be entitled to attend the Association’s Annual Meeting and may exercise such other privileges as may be granted by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.**

The date, time, and location of the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Association shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.**

Notice of the date, time, and place of the Annual Meeting shall be published to the membership, not less than three (3) weeks prior thereto.

**Section 4.**

The presence in person of fifteen (15) Active members qualified to vote, shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting.  For the purpose of this Section, members who have been granted, or members in categories that grant the right or privilege to vote at meetings shall be counted to establish a quorum.

**Section 5.**

All meetings of the Association, including the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Committees shall be conducted in accordance with the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order when not in conflict with these By-Laws. There shall be no voting by proxy or by representation at any meeting except as provided in these By-Laws for the election of Officers and members of the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. (See Article VII).

The President may appoint a non-voting Parliamentarian, proficient in Roberts Rules of Order and parliamentary procedures, who may attend all meetings.  The Parliamentarian shall be eligible to vote only if otherwise qualified by virtue of another position or membership, and the Parliamentarian shall conduct the election portion of the Annual Meeting.

**Section 6.**

Area Directors may hold local meetings, gatherings, social events, dinners, educational seminars, and legislative caucuses, all subject to the prior approval of the Executive Committee.  No actions may be promulgated or taken at these meetings that may bind or affect the Association as a whole.

**Section 7.**

All meetings of the Association shall be open to all categories of membership, except when called into Executive Session, pursuant to the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Section 8.**

Meetings including voting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, or any other committee may be conducted in-person, by telephone conference, video conference, any combination thereof, or by any other electronic means providing all those who are eligible to participate to have an opportunity to take part.  All voting, at meetings conducted other than “in-person,” with the exception of meetings conducted via e-mail, shall be by roll call, counted and recorded by the Secretary.

Voting results at meetings conducted via e-mail shall be maintained by the Secretary, and shall include the name of each voting member.  This requirement shall not be necessary when voting for initial membership approval, unless requested or in the event of a controversy.

The Annual Meeting shall only be conducted “in-person.”

**Section 9.**

The Association shall hold at least one Board of Directors meeting per calendar quarter.

**Article V. Board of Directors**

**Section 1**.

The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of no less than eleven (11) and no more than thirty-five (35) members. It shall, at a minimum, include the members of the Executive Committee, the Area Directors, and any Directors Emeritus.  The Board of Directors shall be required to approve an annual operating budget at the first regularly scheduled meeting after the Annual meeting, which shall take into consideration recommendations of the Finance Committee. Active membership category in the Association and possessing a current valid Florida investigative license, under FSS Chapter 493 or any successor statute is required to hold elected office as a Director or Officer, except as otherwise provided herein. The Executive Committee shall have the right to change, modify or alter the number of Directors, providing there is always, an 11 person minimum.

**Section 2.**

The term of office of an Officer or Director shall be for one year except for the President, who shall serve a two year term, or as may be otherwise provided herein.  Officers and Directors shall serve until their successors have been duly elected.  Any elected Officer or Director who no longer meets membership requirements or whose membership has been revoked or suspended by the Executive Committee, or whose Florida State license has been revoked, or suspended, or who has been convicted of a criminal offense wheresoever situated, shall be deemed to have resigned the position and membership as determined by the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.**

The Board of Directors, by majority vote, may honor any person who has had a significant long-term involvement with the Association for its benefit or the benefit of the industry, as a Director Emeritus.  A Director Emeritus shall have voting privileges at all meetings, including Board of Director meetings, is relieved of any and all mandatory financial and attendance obligations, and may have any other privileges as may be conferred by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

 **Section 4.**

Members of the Board of Directors are expected to attend in-person, by phone, by web conference or via email regular and special Board meetings, and actively participate in at least one operating committee.  Any member of the Board of Directors, who without having been previously excused by the President, misses three (3) meetings of the Board of Directors during the fiscal year, shall be automatically dismissed from their position on the Board of Directors.

**Section 5.**

Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors, including any vacancy created by an increase in the number of Directors, resignation or incapacity may be filled by affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Directors.  A Director so chosen to fill a vacancy shall hold office only until the next election of Directors at the Annual Meeting.  A member of the Board of Directors may request the President to allow a temporary leave of absence due to personal or medical reasons, and if granted, all obligations shall cease until their return.  In that event, the time period requested for absence must be reasonable in accordance with the situation presented, so as not to adversely affect the continuing operation of the Association.

**Section 6.**

All corporate powers shall be exercised by and under the authority of the Executive Committee.  The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1st through December 31st.

**Section 7.**

There shall be a minimum of one meeting of the Board of Directors per calendar quarter, the date and location of which is to be determined by the Executive Committee.  Other meetings may be called at the discretion of the President, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, or by written request of five (5) members of the Board of Directors in good standing.  Five (5) Directors shall constitute a quorum at any scheduled Board meeting.

**Section 8.**

Board members shall serve as such without compensation, however, with approval of the Executive Committee and proper documentation, Board members may be reimbursed for actual out-of-pocket expenses for expenditures made on behalf of the Association, providing there are funds available.

**Section 9.**

The Treasurer, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall establish the amount that each member category shall contribute to the Association as dues for each fiscal year, take into consideration pro-rata dues if they so choose, and set deadlines for the receipt of payment.  The Executive Committee shall also have the right to determine if there shall be dues or not, based upon concurrence of the availability of other sources of revenue such as fund-raising, donations, payment for certificates, training, or other Association material and/or logo bearing products.  Participation in events by any member who is financially incapable of contributing may be waived, or the financial requirement may be waived, at the sole discretion of the President.  Any such personal discussions between the member and the President regarding personal finances and hardship shall be kept in strict confidence.

**Section 10.**

All Directors and members shall advise the 1st Vice-President of any and all fundraising activities for approval, in advance, prior to the commencement of the activity.

**Section 11.**

The Executive Committee is empowered to establish and authorize the use of designations after a member’s name, by creating criteria for same.  Qualifications may be based upon length of licensure, experience, areas of specialties and practice, type of license, examination, attendance at specific events, seminars, and so forth, and may include Associate members.

**Section 12.**

The Board of Directors encourages members in good standing to utilize the official FAPI logo for advertising, including on business cards, letterheads, newspapers, the yellow-pages, or any electronic media including signature lines and the Internet.  Members are also urged to publicly indicate they are members of FAPI in e-mail signatures and other correspondence.  Members should keep in mind that the Association seeks a positive image with the public, government, other members, other Associations and clients, and all communications and conduct including the use of the FAPI e-mail newsgroup should be professional and courteous. Disciplinary action ranging from censure to revocation of membership for misuse or inappropriate use of the e-mail newsgroup shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the Disciplinary Policy set forth herein.  However, the President and/or Chair of the Communications Committee shall be authorized to immediately suspend the offending member(s) from use of the list, until a final determination of any disciplinary action is determined.

**Section 13.**

In the event of non-renewal, suspension or revocation of membership, the use of the FAPI logo or any association with the name FAPI or Florida Association of Private Investigators, Inc. must cease immediately.

**Section 14.**

Membership plaques, certificates, and/or identification cards issued by the Association shall remain the property of the Association, and must be returned if requested, by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

**Article VI. Executive Committee / Officers**

**Section 1.**

The Executive Committee of the Association shall consist of the President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, 3rd Vice-President, immediate Past-President, Treasurer, Secretary and the Founding Director Emeritus.  No member of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors shall be permitted to concurrently be a Board Member, Director or Executive Officer of any other Florida Statewide Association. This restriction shall not apply to any professionally recognized national or international association, educational association, or an official State entity, as determined by the Executive Committee.

**Section 2.**

The duties of the President are to preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and the membership, and to enter into all contracts duly authorized by the Executive Committee.  The President shall appoint the Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons of all standing and special committees, approve all members thereof, remove members therefrom and perform such other duties appropriate to the office. The President may attend any Association or committee meeting and, with the exception of the Nominating Committee, shall be an ex-officio voting member of all committees.  The President is authorized to expend up to three-hundred dollars ($300) for emergency purchases on behalf of the Association, when prior Executive Committee approval is not practical or possible, and must explain same to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors as soon as possible thereafter.

**Section 3.**

The 1st Vice-President shall carry out the duties of the President if the latter is not able to do so, shall chair the Fundraising Committee and provide fundraising status reports no less than at each Executive Committee or Board of Directors’ meeting. The 1st Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President, or when the President wishes to take part in debate.  The 2nd Vice-President and 3rd Vice-President shall assist the 1st Vice-President to carry out the duties of the President in successive order, if the President is not able to do so.

**Section 4.**

The Treasurer is responsible for accounting for all financial receipts and disbursements, and shall present a financial report at each regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting, at any other time as directed by the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, at the Treasurer’s own initiative, or when asked by the President. The Treasurer will also be the Chair and a voting member of the Finance Committee.

**Section 5.**

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Board, Executive Committee, and membership meetings, and shall be responsible for distributing such minutes electronically or in writing to all members of the Board at least one (1) week prior to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.  The Secretary shall maintain a “Motions Book.” This is a permanent record of the final wording of all motions, including amendments, passed by the membership or Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall be responsible to maintain all records of the Association, ensure that they are properly maintained by the corporate office, and that they shall be reasonably available when needed or when requested by the President, Executive Committee Board of Directors or a member in good standing. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the distribution and delivery of information and documents, when so required by these By-Laws, or when so instructed by the President, Executive Committee or the Board of Directors.

**Section 6.**

The immediate Past-President if in good standing, shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee, have the right to attend any and all meetings, shall be considered as an advisor, and shall have no specific duties unless authorized by the Board, or voluntarily accepted.

**Section 7.**

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President or by written request of three (3) members of said Committee.  Four (4) members of said Committee shall constitute a quorum for a meeting.

**Section 8.**

The State of Florida shall be divided into a minimum of five (5) geographical areas, with Area Directors for each, and shall include the South, North, East, West and Central sections; however, the Board of Directors may add additional areas or re-define areas as they may deem necessary.  The Area Directors shall be responsible for membership recruiting and local area gatherings and functions.  A maximum of two (2) persons, may, as Co-Area Directors, share the duties and responsibilities of an Area Director.  Each Area Director and Co-Area Director shall be a full voting member of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee or the Board of Directors shall have the right to amend, modify, combine or change the Areas described above, at any time by majority vote.

**ARTICLE VII. ADVISORY BOARD**

The President, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, may establish an Advisory Board, consisting of individuals who are prominent in the investigative field, who are dues paying association members and who do not hold a Florida Chapter 493 license. The length of terms of service on the Advisory Board shall be determined by the President, who shall also have the authority to remove any Advisory Board member. The Advisory Board shall exist to assist the President, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors to manage the Association, and to provide input to Committee Chairs when requested. The Advisory Board shall have voting authority amongst itself, but no voting authority elsewhere, and may attend Board meetings. It may establish operating policies, procedures and functionality, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

**Article VIII. Election of Officers, Members of the Board of Directors and Area Directors**

**Section 1.**

All officers and Board of Director members shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, except for the President who shall serve a two year term as otherwise provided herein, and shall serve until a successor is elected.

**Section 2.**

Officers and other members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Those seeking Board positions must be present at the meeting unless excused by the President in advance, for good and sufficient cause.

**Section 3.**

The Nominating Committee shall present a list of nominees for each office as provided herein. Nominations may also be given to the Nominating Committee up to two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, and each shall comply with the membership category and all requirements for the offices sought.

**Section 4.**

There shall be no limitation regarding the number of terms that an individual may be elected to office.  No person shall hold more than one elected office simultaneously except in the event there is a Secretary/Treasurer.

**Section 5.**

Proxy voting for Officers and other members of the Board of Directors shall only be permitted in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Members in good standing who are qualified to vote as verified by the Secretary, and who will not be in attendance to vote for officers and members of the Board of Directors, at the Annual Meeting may submit a request to vote by proxy given to a member in good standing.
2. Any member who wishes to vote by proxy must request from the Secretary the appropriate form which shall be created by the Executive Committee.
3. No individual member in attendance at the election meeting may cast more than two (2) proxy votes in addition to their own vote for any contested office.
4. Any member who gives another a proxy is entitled to vote in place of the proxy if personally present at the election. There shall be no recourse if the holder of a proxy fails to vote, is not qualified to vote, or fails to be present at the time of the election.
5. Proxies shall not be assignable.
6. Upon entering the Annual Meeting, prior to the election, those holding proxies must declare themselves and the identity of the proxy maker to the Secretary for verification of good standing status and voting rights.  Each qualified voter shall be given ballots prior to the vote of each office, in the appropriate number.
7. Voting may be by show of hands, verbal or written, at the discretion of the person(s) conducting the election.

**Section 6.**

The Secretary shall present to the Parliamentarian, if one has been appointed, or the person(s) overseeing the elections, the maximum number of possible votes that may be cast for any office.

**Section 7.**

In the event of a written ballot, the Chair shall appoint three (3) tellers whose duties are to count the ballots for contested offices. The tellers shall count the votes and advise the Parliamentarian or person(s) overseeing the elections of the results, and the number of votes each candidate received. The person in charge of the elections shall announce the winner(s) who received a plurality of votes.

**Section 8.**

In the event of a tie, the candidates with equal votes shall be nominees in a run-off with no additional candidates.

**Section 9.**

At the conclusion of the election meeting, all ballots shall be destroyed.

**Article IX . Standing and Special Committees**

The President shall appoint Chairpersons of all standing and special committees necessary to conduct the business of the Association within thirty (30) days of taking office who shall be members in good standing. Chairpersons shall be responsible for appointing their committee members with the President’s approval, and are to notify the Board of Directors of those persons selected within twenty (20) days after appointment, except for the Nominating Committee.  The President may appoint Co-Chairpersons and in that event, the Co-Chairs shall each have one Committee vote.  The President may remove any committee member or Chair for any reason with the approval of a majority vote of the Executive Committee. The Board of Directors shall have the right to determine which Standing Committees shall be activated for that fiscal year.

The Standing Committees shall include, but are not limited to:

* Finance Committee
* Fund Raising
* By-Laws
* Social Events
* Legislative Liaison
* Grievance/Ethics
* Education
* Communications/Website
* Newsletter
* Nominating Committee
* Membership

All Chairpersons and Co-Chairs of Committees must be “Active” category members, except as otherwise provided herein.  All such committees of the Association, as well as all other committees established by the President or by majority vote of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors, shall function subject to and under the direction of the Executive Committee.

The Chairperson and/or Co-Chairs of each Standing Committee, with the assistance and concurrence of the Executive Committee shall annually define the duties and responsibilities of their Committee.  The President, Executive Committee or the Board of Directors may authorize the establishment of Special Committees, the duties and responsibilities of which shall be defined by the Executive Committee.

**Article X. Nominating Committee**

**Section 1.**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of a Chair appointed by the President, and four (4) Active members who are Florida licensees in good standing.  The four (4) additional members are to be elected to the committee, by the Board of Directors, at the first quarterly meeting of the year.  The Committee shall present to the membership at the Annual meeting a list of nominees for all Board of Director positions. Its term of existence shall conclude after all positions requiring nominations have been properly submitted for the next fiscal year.  A member of the Nominating Committee may be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.**

All Officer Positions may be jointly held by a maximum of two (2) qualified people.  Each office holder and co-office holder shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors. No more than two elected members of the Executive Committee may be from the same business entity.

**Article XI. Committee Make-up**

All committees shall consist of no less than a Chairperson and two (2) additional members, not including any ex-officio members as provided for in these By-Laws.  Chairpersons may select committee members from any category of membership, including non-voting Associate or Affiliate members, or non-association members because of a unique or special skill pre-approved by the President, due to a demonstrated particular expertise or unique skill, not available from any active member, for the betterment of the Association.

**Article XII. By-Law Amendments**

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting or special meeting of the Executive Committee by a two-thirds vote of those present in-person or by any other acceptable means as provided elsewhere herein, provided the amendment(s) has been submitted to all members of the Executive Committee no less than two (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which the amendments will be voted on. Copies of the current By-Laws and copies of any proposed changes shall be available for examination at the Association’s usual place of business.

All member proposed changes to the By-Laws shall be submitted to the By-Laws’ Committee for review, evaluation, modification or rejection and thereafter submitted by the By-Law Committee with its recommendation to the Executive Committee. By-Law changes shall take effect immediately upon approval by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.

 **Article XIII. Disciplinary Procedures**

**Section 1.**

A member may be disciplined based upon the good faith determination of the Executive Committee that the member has violated the By-Laws, Code of Ethics of this Association, or has engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to the purposes and best interests of the Association.  Such discipline may include, but shall not be limited to: a reprimand, censure, suspension from office, removal from the Board of Directors or any elected, volunteer or committee position for a period of time determined by the Executive Committee, or revocation of membership status in the Association. A member of the Executive Committee may be removed for cause by a 2/3rds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.**

In the event that any actions or complaints are filed by a governmental authority against a member, wheresoever situated, the Executive Committee shall make the determination whether the member is in good standing based upon the facts and circumstances presented. Should the actions or complaints be dismissed, with a determination of no culpability, the member shall be immediately reinstated.

**Section 3.**

A person, whose membership in the Association has been suspended or judged to be not in good standing, may request re-admission and return to a status of good standing in the Association by applying to the Membership Committee. If membership has been revoked, a new application is required no less than one year from the date of revocation.

1. The Executive Committee may, on a case by case basis, determine the period of time which must elapse after the application of disciplinary action before a request for re-admission to membership may be filed, but in no event shall that be less than thirty (30) days.   Any individual whose membership in the Association has been revoked must submit a new application for membership to the Membership Committee for its consideration.  When considering such an application the Committee shall give weight to the former member’s compliance with the terms and conditions of any assessed former disciplinary action, whether or not the individual currently meets the requirements for membership in a membership category and whether or not re-admission of the individual is in the best interest of the Association.  The findings of the Committee, both pro and con, shall be presented to the Executive Committee for acceptance or rejection of the application.
2. Membership and disciplinary decisions shall be final, and there shall be no appeal.

**Article XIV. Profits and Distribution of Assets upon Dissolution**

No member shall ever receive any dividends or personal financial benefits from the undertakings of the Association except those openly engaged in supplying products or services to the members. All Association profits derived, if any, shall be maintained by the Association and be used solely and exclusively for the advancement of the Association and its goals.  Upon dissolution of this organization, all of the Association’s assets remaining after payment of all costs, debts and expenses of such dissolution shall be distributed to organizations which have qualified for exemption under the Federal Internal Revenue Code, presently §501 (c)(3), or to the Federal Government or to a State of local government for a like public purpose, as determined by the Executive Committee, and none of the assets shall be distributed to any member, officer, employee, committee member or trustee of the Association unless for the reimbursement of an Association debt.

**THESE BY-LAWS, AS AMENDED, WERE DULY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS, INC., ON OCTOBER 19, 2015, AND ARE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**

**A SIGNED ORIGINAL OF THIS DOCUMENT IS MAINTAINED IN THE ASSOCIATION’S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND BY THE SECRETARY.**

A downloadable PDF copy of the current FAPI By - Laws can be obtained by [**Clicking Here**](http://content.onlineagency.com/sites/70154/pdf/fapi_bylaws.pdf).

A downloadable PDF copy of the FAPI Code of Ethics can be obtained by [**Clicking Here**](http://content.onlineagency.com/sites/70154/pdf/fapi_codeofethics.pdf).