

**STATUTES
OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL INTERVENTION (SIP)**

as amended on 23 February 2006, 18 May 2009, 22 October 2010, 1 March 2011, 14 May 2013, 14 April 2016 and 1 June 2020

CHAPTER 1

General Provisions

§ 1

1. The name of the association shall be Association for Legal Intervention and it shall be referred to as the Association hereinbelow.
2. The Association may use the following abbreviated name: SIP.

§ 2

1. The Association operates on the basis of the act of 7 April 1989 - Law on Associations (Journal of Laws, no. 20, item 104, as amended) and it has legal personality.
2. The Association was created for an open-ended period of time.

§ 3

1. The Association operates in Poland and its registered office is in Warsaw.
2. The Association may also operate outside of Poland.

§ 4

The Association may use a seal and other distinguishing marks as per the relevant provisions of the law.

§ 5

1. The activity of the Association is based on the social work of all of its members.
2. The Association may employ people from among its members.

CHAPTER 2

Means and objectives of the Association's activity

§ 6

The objectives of the Association shall be:

1. preventing social exclusion and discrimination;
2. providing free-of-charge legal assistance to foreign individuals, particularly refugees and people applying for refugee status, prisoners, minors, women, and families, including foster and adoptive families;
3. providing assistance to people threatened with marginalisation and people facing problems,
4. activity aimed at ensuring observance of human rights;
5. activity promoting restorative justice, including mediation;
6. activity promoting equal status of men and women;
7. combating violence;
8. improving awareness of legal matters among the general public;

9. promoting social participation processes and supporting various formal and informal organisations, including social organisations.

§ 7

The Association achieves its goals by means of:

1. Providing legal assistance to people in need by means of, *inter alia*, representing them as part of proceedings before courts and public authorities.
2. Taking part in court and administrative proceedings in order to defend public interests.
3. Participating in public debates regarding matters falling within the scope of the Association's activity according to its statutes.
4. Contributing to improvement of laws, the judicial system, and social policy.
5. Monitoring public institutions and the development of legal regulations and their practical application.
6. Supporting initiatives, particularly ones aimed at: spreading knowledge about the law, promoting equal rights for women and men, or organised for the benefit of groups suffering from social exclusion.
7. Carrying out educational, social, and culture-related projects for various social groups.
8. Pursuing publishing activity.
9. Handling mediation and restorative justice sessions.
10. Cooperating and exchanging experiences with other organisations and institutions, Polish, foreign, and international.

CHAPTER 3

Membership, rights and responsibilities of members

§ 8

Members of the Association are divided into:

1. regular,
2. supporting,
3. honorary.

§ 9

1. Any natural person who has attained the age of majority and submitted a filled-it application for membership may become a member of the Association after their application has been approved by the Management Board within 1 month.
2. Both Polish citizens and foreigners may become members of the Association.

§ 10

Regular members shall have the right to:

1. participate in the operations of the Association,
2. select members of and be selected a member of the Association's governing bodies;
3. cast votes during General Meetings;
4. make applications and submit proposals with regard to the Association's activity;
5. make use of support offered by the Association.

§ 11

Regular members shall be obliged to:

1. abide by the statutes, rules and regulations, and resolutions of the governing bodies of the Association;
2. actively participate in achieving objectives of the Association outlined in its statutes.

§ 12

1. Any natural or legal person interested in the activity of the Association may become a supporting member thereof provided that they propose to aid the Association by means of providing financial support, services, or a material contribution and after their application has been approved by the Management Board by means of a written declaration within 1 month.
2. The rights of supporting members are outlined in § 10(d) and § 10(e) of the Statutes and they shall have the right to take part in General Meetings with the right to give advice.
3. A supporting member who is a legal person shall take part in the Association's activity via a representative.
4. Supporting members shall be obliged to:
 1. support the activity of the Association and
 2. fulfil the obligations indicated in § 11 of the Statutes.

§ 13

1. A person who has rendered services of particular importance as far as achievement of the Association's statutory objectives is concerned may become its honorary member.
2. Honorary membership is bestowed by the General Meeting at the request of the Management Board.
3. The rights of honorary members are outlined in § 10(d) and § 10(e) of the Statutes and they shall have the right to take part in General Meetings with the right to give advice.
4. Obligations of honorary members are indicated in § 11 of the Statutes.

§ 14

1. Membership in the Association shall cease as a result of:
 1. voluntary resignation communicated to the Management Board in writing;
 2. being dismissed by the Management Board due to a failure to observe the provisions of the Statutes, rules and regulations, or resolutions of the governing bodies of the Association or as a result of a given person having acted in a way having a considerable negative impact on the Association;
 3. death or loss of legal personality by a supporting member who is a legal person.
2. A resolution of the Management Board regarding a given person's dismissal or exclusion may be appealed against within 30 days to the General Meeting which shall pass the relevant resolution during its next session. Such a resolution of the General Meeting shall be final and binding. Until their appeal has been reviewed, rights of a given member of the Association following from their membership in it shall be suspended.

CHAPTER 4

Governing bodies of the Association

§ 15

1. Governing bodies of the Association shall be:
 1. General Meeting of Members of the Association,
 2. Management Board,
 3. Audit Committee.
2. The term of office of the above-indicated governing bodies shall be two years and they shall be chosen by secret ballot.
3. Unless otherwise provided for in the Statutes, resolutions shall be passed by governing bodies of the Association with regular majority of votes in the presence of at least half of the members entitled to vote.
4. Resolutions shall be passed by governing bodies of the Association by means of an open vote unless otherwise provided for in the Statutes. However, members of governing bodies may pass a resolution on taking decisions by secret ballot.

5. If a member of the Management Board or the Audit Committee resigns from their position, is dismissed, or dies during their terms of office, the governing bodies shall have the right of co-option. The number of people thus co-opted may not exceed two-fifths (2/5) of the number of members who had been chosen.

§ 16

The supreme authority of the Association shall be the General Meeting of Members of the Association which may be Regular or Extraordinary.

§ 17

1. The scope of authority of the General Meeting shall include all matters not falling within the scope of authority of other bodies, particularly:
 1. defining main directions of the Association's activity;
 2. reviewing and approving reports from governing bodies of the Association, including: passing, at the request of the Audit Committee, resolutions on acknowledging fulfilment of their duties by members of the Management Board;
 3. appointing members of the Management Board and the Audit Committee;
 4. awarding honorary member status;
 5. passing resolutions on changing the Statutes or liquidating the Association;
 6. taking a decision to join another organisation;
 7. reviewing appeals against resolutions passed by the Management Board;
 8. defining internal rules and regulations;
 9. defining the amount of membership contributions.
2. The General Meeting may, with an absolute majority of votes, dismiss a member of the Management Board or the Audit Committee before the end of their term of office if they fail to fulfil their duties, fail to act in line with the Statutes, rules and regulations, and resolutions passed by governing bodies of the Association, or blatantly acts to the detriment of the Association.

§ 18

1. Regular General Meeting shall be convened by the Management Board once every two years by means of notifying its members of the date of the meeting, its venue, and its agenda at least 14 days before the planned date of such a General Meeting.
2. If no General Meeting is convened in the mode provided for in section 1, the Audit Committee shall be entitled to convene such a General Meeting.
3. Unless otherwise provided for in the Statutes, resolutions of the General Meeting shall require regular majority of votes in order to be valid provided that at least half of its members entitled to cast a vote were present at the first scheduled date of the meeting and shall require regular majority of votes regardless of the number of its members present at the second date of the meeting.

§ 19

1. Extraordinary General Meetings shall be convened by the Management Board:
 1. at its own initiative,
 2. at the request of the Audit Committee,
 3. upon the written request of at least 1/3 members of the Association.
2. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened 1 month from the submission of the relevant application or request.
3. If no Extraordinary General Meeting is convened in the mode provided for in section 2, the Audit Committee shall be entitled to convene such an Extraordinary General Meeting.

§ 20

1. The Association's overall activity shall be managed by the Management Board.

2. The Management Board shall comprise from 3 to 5 members appointed by the General Meeting of Members. The number of Management Board members shall every time be defined by the General Meeting.
3. Management Board members shall choose the president of the Management Board during its first session. Such a session shall take place no later than 3 days from the date of the General Meeting during which they were appointed.
4. People convicted under a valid and binding court decision for an intentional criminal offence prosecuted ex officio or a tax offence may not be Management Board members.
5. The president of the General Meeting shall perform a background check on candidates for members of the Management Board to make sure that they meet the conditions indicated in section 4 and shall receive from them declarations to that effect.
6. If a member of the Management Board is lawfully convicted of an offence indicated in section 4, they should immediately resign from their position. If they fail to do so, the remaining members of the Management Board shall pass a resolution removing such a person from the Management Board and, in line with the provisions of § 15(5), shall add another person to the Management Board or convene a General Meeting of Members in order to appoint another member for the Management Board.
7. Members of the Management Board may receive remuneration for performing duties related to their position.

§ 21

1. Sessions of the Management Board shall be convened by the president as needed and no less often than once per calendar quarter. The president shall notify the president of the Audit Committee of the date of such a session.
2. The scope of authority of the Management Board shall include:
 1. representing the Association before external entities and acting on its behalf;
 2. managing the Association's property, including: taking decisions regarding acquiring and disposing of assets, accepting liabilities, including non-financial obligations;
 3. managing the Association's current activity;
 4. implementing resolutions of the General Meeting;
 5. accepting subsidies, legacies, donations, and bequests;
 6. drawing up annual reports regarding the Association's activity;
 7. convening General Meetings;
 8. accepting, dismissing, and excluding regular and supporting members;
 9. resolving differences of opinion among members related to the Association's activity;
 10. acting as the employer for employees of the Association;
 11. taking other steps required under the law;
 12. approving annual financial and factual reports regarding the Association's activity and presenting them to the relevant bodies, as provided for by the law;
 13. defining the scope of the Association's public benefit activity, including free-of-charge and paid services;
 14. passing a resolution on excluding a member of the Management Board who ceased to meet the conditions indicated in § 20(4).

§ 22

1. The Audit Committee shall be a body supervising the Association's activity.
2. It shall comprise 3 members.
3. Audit Committee members shall choose its president during its first session. Such a session shall take place no later than 3 days from the date of the General Meeting during which they were appointed.
4. The scope of authority of the Audit Committee shall be:
 1. auditing all of the Association's activity at least once per year;
 2. submitting applications connected with results of such audits to the Management Board and requesting explanations from the Management Board;
 3. requesting that an Extraordinary General Meeting be convened;

4. convening General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings in the mode provided for in § 18(2) or § 19(3);
 5. submitting reports regarding its own activity to the General Meeting;
 6. applying for acknowledgement of fulfilment of duties for members of the Management Board at the end of their term of office;
 7. passing a resolution on excluding a member of the Audit Committee who ceased to meet the conditions indicated in § 23(1).
5. Members of the Audit Committee may take part in sessions of the Management Board as advisers.

§ 23

1. The following parties may not be members of the Audit Committee:
 1. members of the Association's Management Board;
 2. spouses or relatives, whether by consanguinity or by affiliation, of members of the Association's Management Board;
 3. people who are professionally subject to any member of the Management Board;
 4. people who have been convicted under a valid and binding court decision for a premeditated offence prosecuted ex officio or for a tax offence.
2. The president of the Audit Committee shall perform a background check on candidates for members of the Audit Committee to make sure that they meet the conditions indicated above and shall receive from them declarations to that effect.
3. If a person is proposed as a candidate for both the Management Board and the Audit Committee during a General Meeting, the president of the General Meeting shall request that a vote aimed at selecting members of the Management Board be held first and then, after members of the Management Board have been selected, members of the Audit Committee shall be selected.
4. Only people meeting the requirements indicated in section 1 may become members of the Audit Committee.
5. If a member of the Audit Committee ceases to meet the conditions indicated in section 1 during its term of office, they shall immediately file a resignation from their position. If they fail to do so, the remaining members of the Audit Committee shall pass a resolution removing such a person from the Audit Committee and, in line with the provisions of § 15(5), shall add another person to the Audit Committee or ask the Management Board to convene a General Meeting of Members in order to appoint another member for the Audit Committee.

CHAPTER 5

Assets of the Association

§ 24

1. The Association's assets include real estate, movables, and funds.
2. Funds include:
 1. grants and subsidies,
 2. donations, contributions, bequests,
 3. income due to the Association's official activity,
 4. income due to paid public benefit activities performed in line with the relevant legal regulations,
 5. income generated as part of the Association's business activity,
 6. bank interest and other revenue due to management of the Association's funds,
 7. income due to receiving 1% of tax from contributors in line with Polish law.

§ 24a

1. The Association pursues business activity.
2. The Association pursues business activity to the following extent:
 1. organising and conducting training sessions and workshops;
 2. carrying out research and assessment;
 3. organising meetings and conferences.

3. The scope of paid public benefit activity of the Association shall be defined by the Management Board in the relevant resolution.
4. All profits generated due to the Association's business activity must be used for the Association's official activity.

§ 25

1. Declarations of intent on behalf of the Association may be made either unilaterally and independently by its president or by any two Management Board members acting jointly.
2. A declaration of intent resulting in the Association incurring a liability of up to PLN 1000 may be made by any one member of the Management Board.
3. As far as agreements and differences of opinion between the Association and a member of the Management Board are concerned, the Association shall be represented by any one member of the Audit Committee indicated in a resolution of the Committee or an attorney-in-fact appointed in a resolution passed by the General Meeting of Members.

CHAPTER 6

Changes of the Statutes and liquidation of the Association

§ 26

1. Resolutions for changing the Statutes or liquidating the Association shall be taken by the General Meeting by a majority of 2/3 votes in the presence of at least half of its members entitled to cast a vote at the first scheduled date of the meeting or by a majority of 2/3 votes regardless of the number of members present at the second date of the meeting.
2. If the Association is liquidated, the General Meeting shall define the use to which the Association's assets are to be put and shall appoint a Liquidation Committee to liquidate the Association. If the Association is liquidated, its assets may be used exclusively for one or more of the purposes indicated in §6.