

# FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

*Member of Funeral Consumers Alliance, Inc.*

309 W. Green St.  
Urbana, IL 61801

## By-laws

As amended November 12, 2017

### ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this organization is the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Champaign County. It is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Funeral Consumers Alliance, Inc., and it is incorporated in the State of Illinois.

### ARTICLE II—PURPOSE

Section 1. The purposes of this alliance are:

- a. To promote dignity and simplicity in funeral and memorial services;
- b. To promote the opportunity for every member to predetermine the type of funeral or memorial service she or her desires;
- c. To reduce unjustifiable costs of burial, cremation, and other funeral services;
- d. To provide guidance to its members and to promote their interests in achieving foregoing and other activities pertaining to the care, disposition, or utilization of human remains;
- e. To help members to plan for death with dignity; to inform them of all available options; to support appropriate legislation to achieve all of the foregoing.

Section 2. The alliance assumes no legal or financial responsibility for the final disposition of the body remains.

### ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any resident of the east central Illinois area, without regard to race, creed, or national origin, who is in sympathy with the purposes of the organization, shall be eligible for membership. The organization shall be supported by voluntary contributions.

### ARTICLE IV—TRUSTEES

Section 1. The management and administration of this corporation, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be vested in the Board of Trustees, consisting of nine trustees elected by the members at the annual meeting. Only members shall be eligible to serve as trustees.

Section 2. Trustees shall serve staggered three-year terms. Each year beginning in 1979, three trustees shall be elected for three-year terms and serve until their successors are elected. No trustee may serve more than two full consecutive elected terms. After an absence of one year from the Board, a person may be elected to serve again.

Section 3. The unexcused absence of a Trustee from three consecutive meetings shall result in a vacancy being declared for that seat.

Section 4. Whenever a vacancy exists, the remaining trustees may appoint a successor to serve until the next annual meeting, at which time a trustee shall be elected to serve the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 5. Board members shall serve without pay. No Board member shall be a paid employee of the Alliance.

Section 6. The Board may, at its discretion, appoint committees and employ special personnel and define their respective responsibilities.

#### ARTICLE V—OFFICERS

Section 1. Within two weeks following the annual meeting, the newly elected Board of Trustees shall meet and elect the following: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and the Treasurer may be combined at the discretion of the Board. The officers shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Officers shall serve for a period of one year.

Section 3. Any officer may be removed from such position by a two-thirds vote of the nine trustees at a regularly called meeting.

#### ARTICLE VI—NOMINATIONS

Section 1. The active Nominating Committee shall, after having obtained the consent of the persons to be nominated, report its nominations to the Board of Trustees, not less than two months prior to the annual meeting.

Section 2. The President, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, shall, after having obtained consent of the persons to be nominated, not less than one month prior to the annual meeting, nominate three members to serve the subsequent year on the Nominating Committee, two of whom shall be from the membership at large and one from the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Additional names for all Trustee positions to be filled may be placed in nomination, by delivery to the Secretary, not less than seven days prior to the date of the election, a list of the names of members being nominated, said list to be signed by five sponsoring members.

#### ARTICLE VII—ELECTIONS

Section 1. The election of Trustees shall be held at the Annual Meeting, or a special meeting called specifically for that purpose. In either case, a notice shall include the proposed slate of nominees.

#### ARTICLE VIII—VOTING

Section 1. Each adult member shall have one vote.

Section 2. The privilege of voting by proxy shall not be extended to any member.

Section 3. Ballots shall be required when so voted by the membership, or whenever there are more Names placed in nomination that there are vacancies to be filled.

#### ARTICLE IX—MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Alliance shall be held each year, at a time and place, within the service area of the Alliance, to be designated by the Board of Trustees. Members shall be notified not less than 14 days prior to the meeting.

Section 2. The President shall cause a special meeting of the members to be called upon the written request or petition of 10% of the total membership or 25 members, whichever is the lesser, or upon the request of the majority of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Such a special meeting shall be called by the Secretary who shall mail a notice to each member at least 14 days prior to the meeting. Such notice shall include a statement of the purpose or object of the meeting.

#### ARTICLE X—QUORUM

Section 1. At any meeting of the membership, a quorum shall consist of 10% of the total enrolled membership or 25 members, whichever is the lesser.

Section 2. At all meetings of the Board of Trustees a majority shall constitute a quorum.

#### ARTICLE XI—AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-laws may be amended only by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the Annual Meeting or properly called special meeting of the membership. The trustees shall furnish the members, at least 14 days prior to the meeting, a full explanation of the proposed amendments.

#### ARTICLE XII—RECIPROCITY AND TRANSFERS

Section 1. Agreements between the Funeral Consumers Alliance, Inc., providing for reciprocity and transfers among the membership of their respective member organizations is fully endorsed by our Alliance.

Section 2. Under the reciprocal agreement each member organization is to provide the usual service, advice, and assistance as they are able to arrange for their own members to the other member organizations should the need arise while traveling in their area.

Section 3. A member moving into the area of another member organization shall be welcomed as a member in good standing upon request of the transferring member.

ARTICLE XIII—AUDIT

Section 1. One month before the close of the Alliance’s fiscal year, the President shall appoint two members from the membership at large to audit the Alliance’s records, unless an audit by a Certified Public Accountant or a Chartered Accountant is requested by a majority of the Board of Trustees or by a petition signed by five members and delivered to the secretary one month before the close of the Alliance’s fiscal year.

ARTICLE XIV—FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The fiscal year of this Alliance shall begin on the first day of the month in which the annual meeting is held and end on the last day of the month preceding that in which the annual meeting is held.

ARTICLE XV—DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In the event of dissolution of this corporation, distribution of assets remaining after payment of all liabilities shall be determined by the direction of the members called for that purpose, and recipients of said distribution in dissolution shall be limited to recognized nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, preferable to another organization having similar purposes who could continue serving the Alliance’s membership, or to the Funeral Consumers Alliance, Inc., or to a charitable or educational organization. No part of such distribution shall inure to the benefit of any member of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Champaign County.

ARTICLE XVI—PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section 1. Parliamentary procedure as set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order is hereby adopted as the Rules of Order of the Alliance, subject, however, to any contrary provision in the Articles of Incorporation or these By-laws.