

Articles of Association (Bylaws)

§ 1 Name and Registered Office of the Association

- (1) The association shall bear the name "*Schatten & Licht*".
- (2) Upon registration in the Register of Associations, it shall use the suffix "*e.V.*" (registered association).
- (3) The association is registered with the District Court of Walsrode, Register No. VR 120240.
- (4) The financial year shall be the calendar year.

§ 2 Purpose of the Association

- (1) The purpose of the association is to provide mutual support and facilitate the exchange of experiences among women (and, where appropriate, their relatives) who suffer from postpartum (also called postnatal) depression following the birth of a child. A further objective is to raise public awareness of the illness and its effects in order to increase understanding of the challenges faced by affected women.
- (2) Postpartum depression is a recognized medical condition (ICD-10 F53.0). It is generally divided into four phases, which may overlap:
 - a) Baby-Blues (temporary low mood),
 - b) Postpartum exhaustion,
 - c) Postpartum depression,
 - d) Postpartum psychosis.
- (3) The association pursues its objectives in particular through:
 - a) Establishing regional postpartum depression (PPD) self-help groups;
 - b) Building a network between self-help groups and members of the following professions: gynecologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, midwives, nurses, and related professional groups;
 - c) Conducting broad public awareness and educational activities.
- (4) The association exclusively and directly pursues charitable purposes within the meaning of the section "Tax-Privileged Purposes" of the German Fiscal Code.
- (5) The association operates on a non-profit basis.
- (6) It does not primarily pursue its own economic interests.
- (7) The association's funds may only be used for purposes specified in these Articles.
- (8) Members shall receive no distributions from the association's funds.
- (9) No person may benefit from expenditures unrelated to the association's purpose or from disproportionately high compensation.

§ 3 Membership

- (1) Any natural or legal person may become a member or supporting member of the association.
- (2) Admission shall be decided by the Executive Board.
- (3) An appeal against a rejection may be submitted to the next ordinary General Assembly within one month.

§ 4 Membership Fees

- (1) Membership fees shall be collected from members.
- (2) The amount and due date of the fees shall be determined by the General Assembly.
- (3) A member who is more than 12 months in arrears with payment may be removed from the membership list without prior notice.

§ 5 Resignation

- (1) Resignation is only possible at the end of the financial year.
- (2) Notice of resignation must be received by the Executive Board before the end of the financial year.
- (3) A resigning member shall have no claim to any portion of the association's assets.

§ 6 Board of Directors

- (1) The Executive Board within the meaning of Section 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB) consists of:
 - a) The First Chairperson
 - b) The Second Chairperson
 - c) The Treasurer
 - d) The Secretary
- (2) Board members shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of two financial years.
- (3) All board members shall remain in office after the expiration of their term until successors are elected.
- (4) Re-election is permitted.
- (5) Der The Board shall constitute a quorum if at least two members are present. Decisions shall be made by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the First Chairperson shall decide; in their absence, the vote of the Second Chairperson shall decide.
- (6) Board members serve on a voluntary basis. Appropriate remuneration agreements may be concluded with board members who provide additional services. The General Assembly is responsible for approving such agreements.
- (7) Up to three additional Board Members may serve on the Extended Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the right to nominate these additional Board Members.

§ 7 Representation

- (1) The Executive Board shall represent the association both in and out of court.
- (2) Each board member shall have sole authority to represent the association.
- (3) The Board shall also be responsible for the administration of the association.

§ 8 General Assembly

- (1) An ordinary General Assembly shall be held once per financial year.
- (2) Extraordinary General Assemblies shall be convened when required by the interests of the association, when a board member leaves office prematurely, or when 20% of the members submit a written request to the Board stating the purpose and reasons for convening such a meeting.
- (3) Each member shall have one vote at the General Assembly.
- (4) Voting rights may not be transferred to another member.
- (5) The General Assembly is responsible for:
 - a) Electing, dismissing, and discharging the Executive Board;
 - b) Adopting amendments to the Articles of Association and deciding on the dissolution of the association;
 - c) Any further matters assigned by these Articles or by law.

§ 9 Convening the General Assembly

- (1) The General Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Board.
- (2) Notice of an ordinary General Assembly must be given at least one month in advance; notice of an extraordinary General Assembly must be given at least 14 days in advance.
- (3) Members shall be invited individually and informed of the agenda items.
- (4) Invitations must be made in writing.

§ 10 Minutes

- (1) Resolutions adopted must be recorded in writing, stating the place and date of the meeting and the voting results.
- (2) The minutes must be signed by the chair of the meeting and the secretary.

§ 11 Dissolution of the Association

- (1) In the event of dissolution, the board members in office shall act as liquidators.
- (2) If the association is dissolved, abolished, or if its previous purpose ceases to exist, the association's assets shall be transferred to the Elly-Heuss-Knapp-Stiftung, Deutsches Müttergenesungswerk, Deutenbacher Str. 1,

(Last amendment registered with the District Court on 30 December 2022.)