

BYLAWS OF THE
ESTATE PLANNING COUNCIL OF LEE COUNTY, INC

Effective September 15, 2024

I. NAME

The name of this Organization shall be the "Estate Planning Council of Lee County, Inc."

II. OBJECTIVE

The object of the Council shall be:

1. To provide a better understanding of the services which life underwriters, trust officers, lawyers, accountants, and financial planners can render to life insurance policyholders, corporate fiduciaries and the general public;
2. To promote cooperation between each of the five groups mentioned and to foster a better understanding of the proper relationships which each group bears to the other;
3. To further the growth and scope of Estate Planning and to enhance the quality of such services;
4. To promote the interest of its members and the general public.

III. MEMBERSHIP

The regular membership of this Council shall consist of:

1. Trust Officer/Professional Fiduciary currently acting as one who arranges/administers trusts/estates with direct client contact and (1) is employed by a trust company or bank which maintains a trust department, or (2) previously was employed as in (1), or (3) holds the Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA™) designation, or (4) is certified by the State of Florida as a Professional Guardian.
2. Chartered Life Underwriters (CLU®) and Chartered Financial Consultants (ChFC®) who are members in good standing of the Society of Financial Service Professionals or Finseca (Financial Security for All).
3. Attorneys who are members of the Florida Bar Association.
4. Certified Public Accountants (CPA) who are members of the Florida Institute of CPAs.
5. Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) licensees who are in good standing of the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. and members of the Financial Planning Association or the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors.

The Council shall strive for balance of these related disciplines and programs of interest to each throughout each year.

Emeritus status shall be given to any member who has had five years of continuous membership and officially retires from his or her career and is no longer working in a related field. No dues or membership fees shall be required but the Emeritus member shall pay the guest fee for all meetings.

Associate membership status shall be given to a member who has been in good standing for not less than twelve (12) months and who is unable to qualify for membership due to a change in careers within the estate planning arena. Associate membership dues shall be the same as regular membership dues.

All members must be interested in and actively practicing estate planning or related subjects in the County of Lee, Florida, plus such additional counties in the State of Florida as the Executive Committee of the Council shall approve.

Members of any of said groups shall be elected by a majority vote of the Executive Committee after having been approved by the Membership Committee.

Officials or organizations collateral to the life insurance and cooperative fiduciary businesses may become members by approval of the Membership and Executive Committees.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

All powers necessary for the government of the Council shall be vested in an Executive Committee composed of the officers of the Council, one of whom shall be elected from the membership comprising each of the five groups in the Council and all of whom shall be elected by the regular membership.

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at the discretion of the President, or by any three (3) members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to establish rules or procedure and practice for its meetings.

V. OFFICERS

The officers of the Council shall consist of a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The initial officers of the Council shall be elected at the organizational meeting by a majority of the members present at the meeting and shall hold office for one (1) year or until their successor shall be chosen, as set forth in Article VII herein.

VI. QUORUMS

Any three (3) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy which may occur either on their own body or in the officers, by a concurrence of at least three (3) members.

VII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A Nominating Committee consisting of four (4) persons shall be appointed by the President at least one (1) month prior to the December meeting. The Nominating Committee shall present its recommendations for officers and members of the Executive Committee. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The members of the Executive Committee and the Officers of the Council shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present

at the December meeting. Members of the Executive Committee and each Officer shall hold their respective positions until a successor is duly elected and qualified.

VIII. ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Council shall be held during the month of December of each year, at such time and place as may be selected by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall mail or email each member a notice of the meeting at least twenty (20) days prior to the date thereof.

IX. COMMITTEES

The President of the Council or if absent, the First Vice-President, shall have the power to appoint committees on Programs, Membership, Ethics, Cooperation, Education, Legislation, and Publicity, and such other committees as seemed advisable to further the interests of the Council and its members, and to delegate to such committees such power and authority as the Executive Committee shall deem advisable.

X. MEETINGS

Meetings for the furtherance of the objectives of this Council may be called by the Executive Committee at stated times, or from time to time in its discretion. The program of such meetings shall be arranged by the Executive Committee and the Program Committee. Any member may, in writing addressed to the Secretary, request the Executive Committee to bring up for discussion at any meeting, except the annual meeting, any matter pertaining to Estate Planning Council.

XI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee. The President is responsible for organizing and conducting periodic membership drives as well as focusing on recruiting new members-

The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and secure the speakers for each meeting.

The Second Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and the First Vice-President. The Second Vice-President shall be in charge of name tags for each meeting.

The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds and the property of the Council. All funds of the Council shall be deposited in the name of the Council in the bank or trust company located in Lee County, Florida. All withdrawals of such funds shall be on check or order signed by the Treasurer, or Secretary. A statement of the financial condition of the Council shall be submitted at the annual meeting and in such manner as the Executive Committee may require.

The Secretary shall keep a record of proceedings of all meetings of the Council and the executive Committee, and shall be responsible for the mailing of notices and other communications to members.

XII. EXPENSES AND DUTIES

Membership dues shall be payable on or before February 1 of each year. Dues shall be subject to increase or decrease at any regular or special meeting by a majority of the members present at that meeting, providing written notice of the proposed change is mailed to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

XIII. ADVERTISEMENT

No member of this Council shall use membership herein in any form advertisement or solicitation of business.

XIV. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the Council by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided that notices setting forth the proposed amendment shall have been mailed to all members at least five (5) days prior to the date of such meeting, and provided further that the Executive Committee shall have theretofore approved such amendment in writing.

Date adopted December 13, 2018