

APIL Membership Policy.

1. Policy statement:

- 1.1 The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) is a not –for –profit campaign group which has been committed to supporting injured people/victims of negligence for over 30 years. Our vision is of a society without needless injury but, when people are injured, they receive the justice they need to rebuild their lives.
- 1.2 APIL is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcomes all new members. Any powers contained within this policy shall not entitle the EC to discriminate in any way between applicants by reason of their race, sex, nationality, ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, political or religious beliefs.

2. About this policy:

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to:

- 2.1.1 Set out the types of membership offered by APIL;
- 2.1.2 Set out the eligibility criteria for each category of membership.

3. Personnel responsible for implementing the policy:

- 3.1 APIL Executive Committee (EC) has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and are required to review and approve the policy biennial.
- 3.2 All amendments to this policy require approval by the EC.

4. Category of membership:

- 4.1 APIL offer nine types of membership, which enables our members to decide which level of membership suits their needs. The nine categories of membership are:
 - 4.1.1 Practitioner Member;
 - 4.1.2 Non-practicing Legal Practitioner;
 - 4.1.3 Paralegal/Legal Support Staff Member;
 - 4.1.4 Associate Member;
 - 4.1.5 Academic Member;
 - 4.1.6 Student Member and Student eMember;
 - 4.1.7 Overseas Member;
 - 4.1.8 Barrister Member;
 - 4.1.9 Junior Barrister member.
- 4.2 The benefits associated with each type of membership is available to view on the APIL website and is set by the EC.
- 4.3 Practitioner Members, Paralegal/Support Staff and Academic Members are voting members. All other types of membership do not fall eligible to vote.
- 4.4 For the avoidance of doubt the rights of a Member shall not be transferrable.

5. Application for Membership:

- 5.1 Every individual applying for APIL membership should complete an application for membership, the form of which shall be prescribed by the EC. It shall be open to the EC to approve different forms of application for some or all membership classes.
- 5.2 All applications for, and applications for renewal of, membership must include an acceptance by the applicants of the declaration, and adherence to APIL Code of Conduct and Consumer Charter, both of which are displayed on the APIL website.
- 5.3. The right of admission to Membership shall be vested in the EC who may without showing cause refuse to admit any person as a Member of the Association. The EC shall be entitled to delegate its powers to the APIL Secretary.
- 5.4 Membership of APIL is normally granted on an annual basis unless otherwise determined by the EC.

6. Honorary Life Members:

Honorary life membership is awarded by the EC. Honorary Life members are exempt from paying an annual subscription fee to APIL.

7. Responsibilities of Members:

Every Member shall subscribe to the Association's Code of Conduct and Consumer Charter

8. Accreditation:

APIL offers an accreditation scheme to Legal Practitioner and Paralegal/Support Staff Members. A member who successfully applies for and achieves accredited status will be referred to as an accredited member and be noted as having achieved one of the levels of accreditation, the levels of which shall be prescribed by the EC from time to time. It shall be open to the EC to approve different levels of accreditation for some or all membership classes. Full details on how to apply for accreditation are contained on the APIL website.

9. Ceasing to be a Member:

- 9.1 Any Member may withdraw from the APIL Membership by giving two months' notice in writing to the Secretary of their intention to do so.
- 9.2 Any person ceasing by any means to be a Member shall remain liable for, and shall pay to APIL, all monies due from them to APIL at the time of them ceasing to be a Member or for which they may become liable under the provisions of APIL's Articles of Association.

10. Termination or Suspension of Membership:

- 10.1 APIL Membership may be terminated or suspended forthwith by notice from the EC to the Member as follows:

- 10.1.1. if any Member (in the absolute discretion of the EC) ceases to qualify for the category of Membership to which they have subscribed;
 - 10.1.2. if any Member of APIL shall be struck off, disqualified, disbarred or suspended from practice by the Member's professional governing body;
 - 10.1.3. if any Member shall in the opinion of the EC have breached the APIL Code of Conduct; enforcement of the Code of Conduct shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure set out in the Code of Conduct as amended from time to time. The EC shall for the avoidance of doubt have the power to suspend membership of APIL pending the investigation of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct if it forms the view that it is appropriate to do so.
 - 10.1.4. if any Member shall have failed to pay any subscription within three months of the due date or shall in the absolute opinion of the EC fail to comply with any rules or bye-laws of the Association.
- 10.2. The EC retains the right to withdraw the membership of an Honorary Life Member at any time. The Life Member may appeal that decision by following the procedure set out in the Code of Conduct.

