



## **STATUTES & BY LAWS FOR THE ASSOCIATION INSTITUTO DE PSICOTERAPIA RELACIONAL (INSTITUTE OF RELATIONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY)**

### **Introduction**

The relational point of view in Mental Health and Psychotherapy unifies the group of contributions and traditions of clinical practice that have developed mainly in Europe and America during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and that gather the important advances that have take place in the investigation of human Psychological Development and Neuroscience from the last quarter of the century. Numerous professionals (Psychologists and Doctors, as well as other health professionals) have been incorporating the decisive factors that the improved understanding of the process of relations and human communication, have to offer to their specialties. Psychotherapy Professionals of diverse conceptual traditions (psychoanalytic, systemic and cognitive, among others) recognize the social nature of the subjectivity and the intersubjective essence of the psyche, from its development and construction, to the possibilities of change through clinical and social intervention. We learn to be subjects in society, through the relation with significant primary caregivers, discovering and using the multiple levels of language that configure human communication and are structured as thought. Confronted with the alienated existence and subjective suffering, as human beings we have the opportunity to use our social nature for exchange. This is the perspective which contributes to Psychotherapy and Relational Psychoanalysis and its similar disciplines.

Within this conceptual frame, the Institute of Relational Psychotherapy proposes itself as an association, with the purpose of being of public use and interest for professionals and health institutions, to articulate and develop an ample educational tradition, promoted in Spain since 1975 by a group of professionals, psychologists and doctors, trained in the psychosocial branch of psychoanalysis, known as the binding perspective with a special projection in the fields of individual, couple and family psychotherapy, with adults, infants, adolescents and youths as well as in the analysis of what is institutional. The intention and experience of dialogue and convergence from psychoanalysis point of view, with similar perspectives, such as the systemic or constructivist approach, enable an enriched practice with the contributions of difference perspectives, as well as the constant will or desire for renovation through the use of the findings in investigations of different scientific environs, principally the afore mentioned Neurosciences and the Human Development. The objective by which this institute is created, is to encourage the dialogue and exchange of different theoretic perspectives, both clinical and of investigation that contribute to the improvement of the quality of basic training, specialized and continuous of psychotherapies, and as a platform of encounter between knowledge and the accumulated experiences, and the constant learning and discovering of the social nature of humans.

### **CHAPTER I NAME, PURPOSE, ADDRESS AND TERRITORY**

**Article 1.** The Association, named "INSTITUTE OF RELATIONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY", is constituted under the Organic Law 1/2002 of March 22 and its additional regulations, with the legal and complete capacity to act as a non-profit organization.

**Article 2.** This association is constituted for an indefinite period of time.

**Article 3.** The objects or purpose of the existence of this association are:

- a) To promote the development of Relational Psychotherapy, in its various aspects, through specialized educational actions, the practice of the profession, and investigation as well as the scientific exchange with connecting disciplines.
- b) To design and execute educational plans in Relational Psychotherapy, as an Institute oriented towards continued and permanent education, at all levels, both scientific and professional. These plans are part of a high quality educational model that guarantees the protection of the rights of users and the highest capacity of the professionals who work as psychotherapists.
- c) To enable the scientific and professional exchange among its members and specially to enable updating and permanent training.
- d) To establish communication and agreements with other educational institutions, universities, professional colleges, federations and associations both public and private, with interests in the area of pschycotherapy and mental health. With respect to the development of Relational Psychotherapy, to promote / encourage agreements in this respect with the *Spanish Chapter of the International Association of Psychotherapy and Relational Psychoanalysis [IARPP-Spain]*.

**Article 4.** The following activities will be undertaken in order to achieve these objectives:

- a) To promote, support and if is the case, to develop a publication politics about Relational Psychology. In order to do this, magazines, books and translations of outstanding papers, may be encouraged or published and agreements can be subscribed in this respect with editorials and organisms, as well as to collaborate in the circulation of the knowledge about Relational Psychotherapy in any of the official tongues of the Spanish State, in the international environment.
- b) To promote, support and if the case, to organize, specialized and continuous training programs, or any activity of encounter and debate in the area of Relational Psychotherapy in Spain.
- c) To promote, support and if the case develop activities of investigation in the areas of interest of Relational Psychotherapy.
- d) To support the creation and maintenance of an internet area in the Spanish tongue dedicated to Relational Psychotherapy. As a development of this, in any of the other official languages of the State as well.
- e) Any other activity derived or related to the above, that is proposed by the General Assembly or the Board of Directors.

**Article 5.** The Association establishes its social address in Madrid, calle Alberto Aguilera nº 10 Escalera Izquierda, 1º, in MADRID, province of Madrid, DP. 28015 Spain, and its territorial area, in which it mainly will undertake its activities, that is, all the territory of the Spanish State and all of its Autonomous Communities.

## **CHAPTER II BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Article 6.** The Association is to be managed and represented by a Board of Directors formed by a President, Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and two vocals. All the positions that compose the Board of Directors are voluntary and will not receive any salary or compensation. These will be designated and revoked by an Extraordinary General Assembly and the length or duration of the designations will be of five years.

**Article 7.** The Board members can depart from the position, either by voluntary resignation communicated to the Board of Directors in writing, or by the unfulfilment of obligations entrusted or due to the expiration of the period of the position.

**Article 8.** The members of the Board of Directors that have reached the period, for which they were elected, will continue in their position until there is another person accepted to substitute them.

**Article 9.** The Board of Directors will meet as many times the President determines and by initiative or petition of half plus one of its members. It will be constituted when half plus one of its members assist and in order for the agreements to be valid they must be agreed upon by the majority of votes. In the case of a tie, the President's vote will be a quality vote. At the President's initiative, the Board of Directors can be consulted normally by email about management or urgent matters that require decisions, including adopting agreements that require the simple majority of all the members of the Board, and the period for decision is not to be inferior to seventy two hours. The agreements adopted in this way will be included in the order of business and incorporated as valid agreements, which will be informed in the following assembly, along with the other agreements.

**Article 10.** Capacities of the Board of Directors: The capacity of the Board of Directors will be extended, with a general character to all that pertains to the objectives of the Association, as long as they do not require, according to the Bylaws, express authorization by the General Assembly.

The specific capacities of the Board of Directors:

- a) Direct the social activities and the economic (financial) and administrative management of the Association, agreed on to do the necessary contracts and acts.
- b) Execute the agreements of the General Assembly.
- c) Formulate the Balances and annual accounts, and submit them for approval of the General Assembly.
- d) Resolve about the admission of new members, and decide according to the bylaws' criteria about the origin of the integration of each one of the categories of the members that the association distinguishes.
- e) Grant accreditation and recognition for the Titled and Associate members, upon previous petition by the members, before other national and international associations and institutions, according to the function of the criteria that these institutions have established and that are valid in the moment of their request. In order to do this the Board of Directors, respecting what are strictly the criteria of degrees required of the members, will interpret the accreditation criteria, respecting their qualitative content, valuing if they achieve or not the level of training and experience desired, and not as a simple effect of compliance with the quantitative expression of these criteria. At the same time will be able to recognize and value training careers in different institutions as well as teaching contributions of professionals from without the association.
- f) Name delegates for certain activities of the association.
- g) Any other capacity that is not exclusive competence of the General Assembly of members.

**Article 11.** The President will have the following attributions: legally represent the Association before all type of public or private organisms; convene, preside and end sessions celebrated by the General Assembly and Board of Directors, as well as direct deliberations of one or the other; order payments and authorize by his signature, the documents, minutes and correspondence; adopt any urgent measure that the good functioning of the Association recommends or in the development of its activities results necessary or convenient, notwithstanding later informing the Board of Directors.

**Article 12.** The Vice President will substitute the President in his absence, motivated by illness or any other cause, and will have the same attributions. The Vice President can also act by express delegation.

**Article 13.** The Secretary will be in charge of the management of administrative tasks of the Association, and has the capacity to sign certifications, manage the books of the association that are legally required and the database of members, and will custody the association's documentation, circulating the communications about the Boards of Directors designations as

well as other social agreements to be inscribed in the corresponding Registers, as well as the presentation of annual accounts and the fulfilling of the documentary obligations in the legal terms necessary.

**Article 14.** The treasurer will collect and custody the funds belonging to the Association and will comply with the payment orders indicated by the President.

**Article 15.** The Vocals will have the obligations that belong to their position as members of the Board of Directors as well as those that spring from the work delegations, commissions or committees that the Board assigns them.

**Article 16.** The vacancies that may be produced during the mandate of any of the members of the Board of Directors will be temporarily covered by the said members, or by co-option, until the definite election by the Extraordinary General Assembly.

### CHAPTER III GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Article 17.** The General Assembly is the supreme government organism of the Association and is integrated by all the members.

**Article 18.** The meetings of the General Assembly can be ordinary or extraordinary. The ordinary will be celebrated once a year within the four months following the end of the period; the extraordinary assemblies will be celebrated when the circumstances recommend it, according to the President, when the Board agrees upon it, or when the fifth part of the members propagate a written request for an meeting.

**Article 19.** The notification of a General Assembly must be written, expressing the place, date and time of the meeting as well as the agenda concretely expressing the points to be discussed. Between the notification and the assigned day for the celebration of the Assembly in its first assigned date and time there must be at least fifteen days, and a second date and time may be indicated also, if it is convenient. There must not be more than 1 hour difference between the first and second assigned date and time.

**Article 20.** The General Assemblies, both ordinary and extraordinary, will be validly constituted at the first time, when a third of the associates with the right to vote are present, and at the second time no matter how many associates with a vote to right are reunited. The members that cannot attend can be represented if they want, by a written expression directed to the President of the association. These delegations received, even by email, will be admitted up the moment of the assigned meeting.

Agreements will be undertaken by simple majority of the people present or represented when the affirmative votes are more than the negative votes, blank votes and abstentions do not count in this case.

Will be necessary the qualified majority of those present and represented, and will result when the affirmative votes exceed half of the votes, in these cases:

- a) Naming of the Directors of the Board and administrators.
- b) Agreement to constitute a Federation of Associations or become part of one.
- c) Disposal or transference of property that is part of the assets of the association.

**Article 21.** Capacities of the Ordinary General Assembly:

- a) Approve, in its case, the Board of Directors management.
- b) Examine and approve annual accounts.
- c) Approve or reject the proposals made by the Board of Directors with regard to the activities of the Association.
- d) Set ordinary and extraordinary fees.

- e) Any other that is not under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Extraordinary Assembly.
- f) Agree on the compensation in its case, of the members of the organisms of representation.

**Article 22.** Exclusive capacities of the Extraordinary General Assembly.

- a) Naming of the members of the Boards of Directors.
- b) Modification of the By-laws.
- c) Dissolution of the Association.
- d) Removal of members, proposed by the Board of Directors
- e) Constitution of, or integration in Federations.

## **CHAPTER IV MEMBERS**

**Article 23.** Members are people with a capacity to act that have interest in the objectives of the Association, and that comply with the criteria defined by the category of member to which they belong.

**Article 24.** The Association will have the following types of members: Titled Members; Associate Members, Adherent (Annex) Members; Accredited Members, as a complementary category to the afore mentioned types.

In order to obtain the category of "Titled Member" it is necessary to possess the ownership of the degree of BA or BS in Psychology or in Medicine (or a legal equivalent that enables professional association), and comply with the criteria that permits them to gain the accreditation as specialized psychotherapists, and to have undertaken professional practice for more than 10 years. Titled Members will be grouped within the following categories:

- a) Founders – titled members that participate in the constitutional act of the Association or adhere to it before the Association is inscribed in the Register.
- b) Numeral members – are Titled Members that join after the Associations' constitution and inscription in the Register.
- c) Honour members – are Titled Members that due to their prestige or due to their relevant contribution to the development of the Association, dignify it, and are deserving of this distinction. The naming of honour members is in hands of the Board of Directors, who will communicate it to the General Assembly.

In order to obtain the category of Associate Member, it is necessary to possess the ownership of the degree of BA or BS in Psychology or Medicine (or a legal equivalent that enables professional association), and comply with the criteria that permits them to gain the accreditation as general psychotherapists, and to have undertaken professional practice for more than 2 years. Associate Members will be grouped within the following categories:

- a) Founders – associate members that participate in the constitutional act of the Association or adhere to it before the Association is inscribed in the Register.
- b) Numeral members – are Associate Members who join after the Associations' constitution and inscription in the Register.

Adherent Members will be those who request it and are accepted according to the by-laws. It is required that they be following education or training that once completed will permit them to have access to the category of Associate Member. They may also be founding or numeral members, as those afore mentioned.

The Accredited Members are all those Titled and Associate members that comply with the conditioned required to be recognized as psychotherapists by Professional Corporations and National or foreign Psychotherapeutic Associations and Federations with whom the INSTITUTE OF RELATIONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY has established agreements in this respect. In this way, accredited members may also be members of the Spanish Federation of Associations of

Psychotherapists (FEAP) after evaluation by the Board of Directors or the delegated Admissions Committee, if they comply with the criteria established by the FEAP By-laws valid at the time when these psychotherapists are presented as accredited to the FEAP.

**Article 25.** The members can resign for any of the following reasons:

- a) Voluntary resignation, communicated in writing to the Board of Directors.
- b) Resignation for non-compliance with economic obligations, by having two periods of unpaid dues or membership fees.

**Article 26.** Titled Members, both founding and numeral, will have the following rights:-

- a) Take part in all the activities organized by the Association in compliance with its objectives and specially undertaking an educational or training function in accordance to their experience and career.
- b) Enjoy all the benefits and advantages that the Association may offer.
- c) Participate in the Assemblies with a voice and a vote.
- d) Receive information about the agreements adopted by the organs of the Association.
- e) Make suggestions to the members of the Board of Directors in order to improve the compliance with the objectives of the Association.
- f) Request specialized and teaching accreditation in psychotherapy, in accordance with what is established in the additional By-laws.

**Article 27.** The Associate members, both founding and numeral, will have the following rights:

- a) Take part in all the activities organized by the Association in compliance to its objectives and specially undertaking an educational or training function in accordance to their experience and career.
- b) Enjoy all the benefits and advantages that the Association may offer.
- c) Participate in the Assemblies with a vote.
- d) Vote and be eligible for positions in board.
- e) Receive information about the agreements adopted by the organs of the Association.
- f) Make suggestions to the members of the Board of Directors in order to improve the compliance with the objectives of the Association.
- g) Request specialized and teaching accreditation in psychotherapy, in accordance with what is established in the additional By-laws.

**Article 28.** The Adherent members, both founding and numeral, will have the following rights:

- a) Take part in all the activities organized by the Association in compliance to its objectives and specially undertaking an educational or training function in accordance to their experience and career.
- b) Enjoy all the benefits and advantages that the Association may offer.
- c) Participate in the Assemblies with a vote.
- d) Vote and be eligible for positions in board.
- e) Receive information about the agreements adopted by the organs of the Association.
- f) Make suggestions to the members of the Board of Directors in order to improve the compliance with the objectives of the Association.

**Article 29.** The Title, Associate and Adherent Members will have the following obligations:

- a) Comply with the present By-laws and the agreements validated by the Assemblies and the board of Directors.
- b) Pay the fees fixed for the contribution for the maintenance of the expenses of the Association.
- c) Assist the Assemblies as well as other organized acts.
- d) Carry out, when applicable, the obligations inherent to the position occupied.

**Article 30.** The Honor Title Members will have the same obligations as the founders and the numeral members, excepting those specified in points b) and d) of the previous Article.



Additionally, they will have the same rights excepting those that figure in the points c) and d) of Article 26, and can attend Assemblies with a right to be heard, but without the right to vote.

**Article 31.** The financial - economic resources supplied by the development of the objectives and activities of the Association will be the following:

- a) Periodic or extraordinary Membership fees set to maintain the expenses of the Association, or inherent to the accreditations that can be given or administered.
- b) The subsidies, legacies and inheritances that the Association may legally receive from any of the members or from third parties.
- c) Any other legal resource.

**Article 32.** The Association, at the time of its constitution does not have social funding.

**Article 33.** The associative and economic period will be annual and closes on December 31st of each year.

## **CAPITULO VI DISSOLUTION**

**Article 34.** The Association can be dissolved voluntarily by the Extraordinary General Assembly, called upon for this purpose by a majority of 2/3 of the members.

**Article 35.** In the case of dissolution, a liquidating committee will be named, in order to, once all the debts are covered, if there is outstanding liquidity, will use it for objectives in consonance with the non-profit nature of the association (specifically the funds will be assigned to another association that share similar objectives, and in the case the Liquidation Committee does not reach an agreement the excess funds will go to the Association "*Spanish Section of the International Association for Psychotherapy and Relational Psychoanalysis (IARPP-Spain)*").

## **ADDITIONAL BY-LAWS**

**First:** The Organic Law 1/202, of March 22nd, regulating the Right of Association will be applied in all that is not mentioned in the present additional By-Laws.

**Second:** Psychotherapeutic training and education is formed at a basic level that is derived from the knowledge derived from the degrees obtained as BA or BS (in Psychology or Medicine), completed with a curricular career integrated by specific training in psychotherapy through post-graduate courses, supervised professional practice and the sufficient experience in personal psychotherapy. The criteria of minimum requirement and canons for each one of these component of training can be established by the Board of Directors, so they can be also adopted from those established by instances of external accreditations, at a national or international level. Consequently, the Board of Directors, by means of express agreement, can give accreditation as psychotherapist to its Titled an Associate Members, in agreement with what is established by the instances or external accrediting institutions, with which the Institute is tied at a national or international level. The accreditations that can be given are: a) *General:* individual psychotherapy; Psychotherapy of children and adolescents; Group Psychotherapy; b) *Specialized:* Couple psychotherapy; family Psychotherapy; Individual psychotherapy with psychoanalytic orientation; Group Psychotherapy with a psychoanalytic orientation; c) *didactic or teaching function:* each one of the above. Other classifications of accreditations can be added to the present if so approved by the General Assembly.

**Third:** The Association INSTITUTE OF RELATIONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY, without detriment nor undermining the criteria of the required degrees for its members, adopting the minimum



criteria for the accreditation of psychotherapists established by the *Spanish Federation of Associations of Psychotherapists (FEAP)* in its article V, and other by-laws of its social by-laws. The members of the association that want to be professionally accredited by the FEAP as psychotherapists at the moment of their request of accreditation must reunite the minimum common criteria requested by the FEAP, that if valid and the date of the request, and other specific criteria set by the sections of the FEAP of each specific accreditation that they request, as well as the those valid at the date of the request. The associate members can only receive general accreditations and General titled members, can receive specialized, teaching and didactic accreditation.

Regarding Titled Members and Associates that are psychologists, the INSTITUTE OF RELATIONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY equally accepts the criteria established by the European Federation of Association of psychologist (EFPA) and the General Council of the Professional association of psychologist of Spain, to give the European Certified Accreditation for Psychologist Specialized in Psychotherapy.

**Forth:** it is established that the Association INSTITUTE OF RELATIONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY will give compliance to its members to the accreditation requirements of psychotherapists that can adopt public and professional institutions with competence in this matter, as well as what is establish through legal laws in the area of specializations and post-graduate degrees, all within the State of Spain and it's autonomies.

**Fifth:** the Association adopts as its own the Ethical Codes of the Professional association of Psychologists and Physicians and of the Spanish Federation of Associations of Psychotherapists. The General Assembly may adopt or develop other codes of professional conduct.

### **TRANSITORY DISPOSITION.**

**One:** People who request incorporation in the Association and that have previously been tilted or associated accredited members before the constitution of the INSTITUTE OF RELATIONAL PSYCHOTHERAPY of other associations members of the Spanish Federation of Associations of Psychotherapists, when the admission process is completed will be automatically recognized with the professional accreditations they may have had in that other association, if not in contradiction with these By-Laws, and must offer a copy of the corresponding accreditation document.

In Madrid, November twenty eighth of 2006.

*The Secretary*

Manuel M. Aburto Baselga, Clin Psych.

*Approved by the President  
In behalf of the General Assembly  
Alejandro Ávila Espada, Ph.D.*