

**NORTH CAROLINA HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS
OCTOBER 23, 2007**

Article 1. Name of Association

- A. The name of the organization shall be the North Carolina Homicide Investigators Association.

Article II. Purpose and Objectives

- A. To provide homicide investigators an opportunity to exchange information relative to homicide investigators and to encourage such exchange of information.
- B. To support and encourage regular training sessions, workshops, and special investigative seminars.
- C. To open new lines of communication among homicide investigators within the state of North Carolina.
- D. To establish a repository for information relating to current and unsolved homicides within the state of North Carolina and to disseminate such information through regular group meetings and publications.
- E. To establish a network for other law enforcement agencies across the United States to access information.
- F. Through the training, communication, support and encouragement of the association's membership, promote quality homicide investigations within the state of North Carolina.

Article III. Membership and Voting Rights

- A. There will be three (3) classes of membership: Active, Privileged, and Honorary.
 - 1. Active Membership may be granted to the following:
 - a. A sworn Law Enforcement Officer of the United States or any State who has the powers of arrest and who is involved in the investigation of homicides and other death cases.

- b. A Medical Examiner designated as such by the Chief Medical Examiner of the State of North Carolina whose responsibilities include the investigation and determination of cause and manner of death.
- c. Employees of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner whose duties regularly involve the investigation of homicides and other death cases.
- d. Investigators who are under the jurisdiction of a District Attorney of the State of North Carolina and whose duties include the investigation of homicides and other death cases.
- e. Non-sworn employees of the North Carolina Department of Justice whose duties involve the investigation of homicides.
- f. Persons who at one time were Law Enforcement Officers as defined by paragraph 1 of this section and who no longer have the powers of arrest, but with other qualifications deemed suitable by the Board of Directors of the Association to qualify them for Active Membership.
- g. Crime Scene Investigators who are employed by a Local, State or Federal Law Enforcement Agency.

Active Members shall complete a membership application and pay annual dues as set forth by the Association.

Active Members shall have full voting rights and privileges in the Association, shall have the right to make nominations, and shall have the right to hold office in the Association.

2. Privileged Membership:

May be granted to individuals who retire from law enforcement or resigns from law enforcement due to extenuating circumstances, not including situations of forced resignation from one's Department. Privileged Membership may also be granted to:

- a. Duly elected District Attorneys of the State of North Carolina or any State.

- b. Duly elected or appointed United States Attorneys or Assistant United States Attorneys.
- c. Police Attorneys currently employed with a law enforcement agency. Those applying for Privileged Membership:
 - 1) Shall complete the Privileged membership application and submit annual dues as provided by the association By-Laws and upon approval of the Officers and Board of Directors.
 - 2) May not hold elective office, but shall have full voting rights.
 - 3) Can be appointed to committees by the President for their historical knowledge and experience.
 - 4) Shall receive all publications, notifications, and correspondence of the association as approved by the Officers and Board of Directors.

3. Honorary Membership:

May be granted for support, assistance and contribution to the association in an exemplary manner.

- a. Any active member shall make the nominations of said person and shall be accepted as such, upon approval of the Officers and Board of Directors of the association.
- b. Shall not hold office or have voting rights.
- c. Shall not be required to pay association dues.

Specific Exclusions of Membership:

Due to the sensitive nature of matters presented and discussed by Association members at meetings which often involve cases still under investigation and prosecution, no one who has been granted

a license by the North Carolina Private Protective Services Board under Chapter 74C-2 of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina may be a member of the Association in any category of membership. Equally, no person who possesses a similar license or privileges granted by any other State shall be eligible for membership in any category. This shall include but not necessarily be limited to those licensed as Private Investigators, Private Investigator Associates, Private Polygraph Examiners, Private Polygraph Examiner Trainees, and Private Psychological Stress Evaluators.

Due to the fact that the membership of the North Carolina Homicide Investigator's Association is involved in the investigation of cases which will ultimately be prosecuted by the District Attorneys of the State of North Carolina and/or United States Attorneys, no individual whose duties in whole or in part involve working for a member of the Defense Bar in any capacity shall be allowed to be a member of the Association or to attend meetings sponsored by the Association.

It is the policy of the Association that any and all materials distributed at meetings or otherwise disseminated to the membership by any means are so distributed for the sole use of members in their capacity involving the investigation and prosecution of homicides and other death cases. Any person terminating their membership in the Association for any reason is specifically prohibited from using these materials for any purpose other than these. No materials may be given to any member of the Defense Bar without a legal process authorizing such distribution being served on the Secretary of the Association.

Article IV. Officers of the N.C.H.I.A.

- A. The elected officers of the association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and (6) Board of Directors.
- B. Election and tenure of office.
 - 1. Elections will take place every year at the annual business meeting of that year. Officers will be nominated and voted upon by the majority of the members present.
 - 2. Officers shall serve a term of two (2) years from Jan. 1st of the first year through December 31st of the second year.
- C. Duties of Elected Officials:

1. President

- a. The President shall be the executive officer of the association. He shall preside at all regular, special, and Board of Director's meetings, shall appoint any and all committees not otherwise provided for, enforce the Constitution and By-Laws, be a member ex officio of all committees, and perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office of President.
- b. Shall appoint two (2) active members to serve as Sergeant At Arms as deemed necessary by the President of the association.

2. Vice President

- a. The Vice President shall aid and assist the President, and in the absence of the President, shall temporarily assume and perform the duties of the President.
- b. The Vice President shall automatically succeed the office of President. In the event of the President's death, resignation or removal from office, during his/her tenure of office the Vice President will thereby serve the unexpired term.

3. Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for preparing membership cards for new association members and mailing out packets for new members to include By-Laws, membership card, letter from the President and NCHIA certificate.

4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting all dues, fees and assessments, present in writing and read to the membership a financial report at each meeting, pay the bills of the association upon presentation of proper voucher, and serve as custodian of all funds of the association.

5. Board of Directors

- a. There shall be six (6) directors elected from the active members of the association. Three shall serve a one (1) year term and three shall serve a two (2) year term until such time their terms become staggered at which time all terms of office shall become a two (2) year term.
- b. They shall be responsible for monitoring current By-Laws and proposing necessary amendments to the same for membership approval.
- c. They shall also serve as chairpersons for special committees as recommended by the President of the association which may include but not limited to Membership, Seminars, and Special Events Committees.
- d. In the event of a death, resignation, or removal from office of any elected Officers or Board of Directors, the board will appoint an active member to serve the unexpired term of the office vacated with the exception of the office of President.

6. Executive Secretary (Appointed Position)

The Executive Secretary will be selected and appointed by the Board. The Executive Secretary will keep a record of all proceedings of the association meetings, maintain a correct record of the total membership, issue notices of meetings and agenda, and conduct the correspondence of the association.

7. Advisory Board

Past Presidents shall serve indefinitely on the Advisory Board and will be responsible for assisting with planning of future conferences/meetings, provide training and assist with making contact with future speakers.

Article V. Meetings

- A. Regular membership meetings will be scheduled on a bi-annual basis.
- B. A training conference will be held each calendar year.

- C. Special meetings for the membership may be called by the President when needed.
- D. In meeting of the membership, a quorum shall consist of not less than twenty percent of the membership in good standing.

Article VI. Dues, Fees and Assessments

- A. The fiscal period of the association shall be from January 1st to December 31st.
- B. Dues for the association for each fiscal year shall be set by the Board of Directors. The amount of dues will be dependent upon the state of the association's anticipated expenses for the upcoming year. Any changes in the annual dues must be announced at the regular meeting of each year and is binding upon the membership, only after a majority approval.
- C. Funds are to be distributed only upon the signature of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Secretary.
- D. Payment of membership dues will need to be received by October 31st of each calendar year. Dues should be sent to the Treasurer of the association.