**DEAF-BLIND DIVISION**

**OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF FLORIDA**

ARTICLE I – NAME

 The name of this organization shall be Deaf-Blind Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

 The purpose of this organization is to serve as a division of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida; to be a vehicle for collective action by the deaf-blind of the state; to function as a mechanism through which the deaf-blind and interested blind and sighted persons can come together to plan and carry out programs to improve the quality of life for the deaf-blind; to promote the vocational, cultural and social advancement of the deaf-blind; to achieve the integration of the deaf-blind into society on the basis of equality with the sighted; to focus attention upon the problems faced by deaf-blind people in all walks of life; and to take any other action which will improve the over-all condition and standard of living for children, adolescents, adults and seniors who have a combined hearing and vision loss; to function as a mechanism through which the deaf blind and other interested sighted communities can come together to plan and carry out programs to improve the quality of life for the deaf blind; to promote the vocational, cultural, and social advancement of the deaf blind; to achieve the integration of the deaf blind into society on a basis of equality with the sighted; to focus attention upon the problems faced by deaf blind people in Florida; and to take any other action which will improve the overall equality of the deaf blind.

Ex. The purpose of this organization shall be to create a climate of opportunity for deaf-blind children in home, school, and society; to provide information and support to parents of deaf-blind children; to facilitate the sharing of experience and concerns among parents of deaf-blind children; to develop and expand resources available to parents and their deaf-blind children; to help parents of deaf-blind children gain understanding and perspective through partnership and contact with deaf-blind adults; and to function as an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind in its ongoing effort to eliminate discrimination and prejudice against the blind and to achieve for the blind security, equality, and opportunity.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section One

The members of this organization shall be deaf-blind and others interested in promoting the purpose of this

organization. The members of this organization are members of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida and shall have the same rights, privileges and

responsibilities as other members of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida.

Section Two

This organization shall be made up primarily of deaf-blind people, and it shall be controlled by the deaf-blind. A majority of its voting members must be deaf-blind.

Section Three

Any member may be expelled for violation of this Constitution, for violation of the policies of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, or for conduct unbecoming to a member of the Federation, by a three-fourth (75%)vote of the active members present and voting at any regular business session of this organization or by two-thirds vote of all officers and Board of Directors. The NFBF members attending the Florida NFBF Convention may reinstate any person who has been expelled. Any person who feels that he/she has been unjustly expelled from this organization may appeal to the Board of Directors of the

National Federation of the Blind of Florida which may (at its discretion) consider the matter and make a binding decision. Unless the decision to suspend or expel is reversed by the State Convention or by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, the ruling of suspension or expulsion shall continue in effect.

Section Four

The name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof, is the property of the National Federation of the Blind; and if this organization ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida (for whatever reason) it shall forfeit the right to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section One

The officers of this organization shall be: President,

First Vice-President, Second Vice-President; Secretary and Treasurer. The duties of those officers shall be those customarily associated with their respective offices.

Section Two

Two additional persons will be elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

Section Three

The officers and those elected to the Board will constitute the Board of Directors.

The officers and the members of the board shall be elected by a majority vote of the members participating, present and voting at the annual State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida.

There will be no proxy voting.

Election shall be by voice vote, standing vote, show of hands, roll call vote, or secret ballot.  Secret marked ballots shall be required upon the request of any active member present and voting. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the name of the person receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the list of nominees, and a second ballot shall be taken.  This procedure shall continue until one of the nominees has received a majority vote from the active members present and voting.

 ARTICLE V:  OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section One—Officers

 There shall be elected at the annual NFBF state convention in odd numbered years beginning in 2023, a President, second Vice-President, Secretary, and second Board member. There shall be elected at the annual NFBF state convention in even numbered years beginning in 2022 a first Vice-President, Treasurer, and first Board member.

   The 2 year terms of these officers and board members shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are qualified and elected.

The president is the chief executive officer of the organization.  The duties of all officers shall be those ordinarily associated with their respective offices.  The president and the two vice presidents must be Deaf blind.

The board shall advise the president and shall conduct the affairs of the organization between meetings.  The president shall have the authority to fill vacancies that may occur in one or more of the elected offices.  Such appointments shall be valid for the remainder of the term of service of that elected position.

A majority of the board must be blind.

The board of directors shall facilitate communication among the organization’s members by providing summaries of business, legislative, and committee activities.  Conversely, the board shall strive, whenever prudent and applicable, to obtain the perspectives of chapter and committee leadership on potential policies or procedures that will affect the mission or general operation of these entities.

 ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section One

This organization shall hold it annual meeting at the

time and place of the annual convention of the National

Federation of the Blind of Florida. The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the organization between annual meetings.

Section Two

The President of this organization may call a special meeting of the Board at any time he/she, or a majority of the Board of Directors, deems such action to be necessary.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

The President may appoint such committees as he/she or the organization deems necessary.

The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE VII: AFFILIATION

 The Deaf-Blind Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida shall be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, and this organization shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida annually, on or before January 31st, a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. Further, a complete financial report showing all financial transactions for the previous calendar year shall be furnished to the State President by March 1st for appropriate accounting purposes and to comply with 501(C)3 requirements and for Internal Revenue Service purposes. A copy of the Constitution of the Deaf-Blind Division and of all amendments to the Constitution shall be sent to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, immediately upon adoption.

 The Deaf-Blind Division shall not merely be a social organization, but shall formulate programs and activity work to promote the economic and social betterment of the deaf-blind. This organization shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind. Policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Florida (whether made by the National Convention or the National Board of Directors or the State Convention or the State Board of Directors) are binding on this organization and this organization shall participate affirmatively in carrying out such policy decisions. As a condition of affiliation, it is agreed by this organization that the National Federation of the Blind (whether by action of the National Convention or the National Board or the State Convention or the State Board) has the power to expel or discipline an individual member and to expel or reorganize a state affiliate or local chapter. In the event of reorganization, the assets of this organization belong to the reorganized division, and the former division shall dissolve and

cease to exist.

 The name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof is the property of the National Federation of the Blind; and this organization, if it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind (for whatever reason) shall forfeit the right to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES

The dues for members of this organization shall be five dollars ($5.00) per year, payable in advance. No person may vote who is delinquent in the payment of his/her dues.

ARTICLE IX – FUNDS AND FINANCING

The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank to be selected by the Treasurer with the approval of the President. The Treasurer and President shall be named as owners on such bank account. All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check or any legal electronic method of payment, , issued on order of the President, and signed or executed by the Treasurer.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, or

(for whatever reason) it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida, its assets shall be transferred to the treasury of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote

of the members present and voting at any meeting of this organization, but the amendments shall not become effective until they have been presented to the

President of the National Federation of the Blind of

Florida for review and approved by the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida.

##  ARTICLE XII. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Deaf- Blind Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Florida shall abide by the [National Federation of the Blind Code of Conduct](https://www.nfb.org/about-us/history-and-governance/code-conduct). All individuals within the organization, including all attendees at NFB-sponsored events, are expected to refrain from the unwelcome and harmful misconduct outlined in the Code, including but not limited to discrimination, abuse, misuse of power, sexual misconduct, conflict of interest, fraud, and other forms of misconduct.

### OFFICIAL PLEDGE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

I pledge to participate actively in the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its Constitution.