



## **By-Laws**

### **Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (TADEC)**

#### **Outline**

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## By-Laws Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

### Article I.

The following is the mission, vision, and objective of the Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (TADEC):

***Purpose:***

*The Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (TNDEC) is a collaborative statewide multi-disciplinary effort to prevent drug related harm to children and rescue, defend, shelter and support Tennessee's children who suffer physical and psychological harm caused by the manufacture, distribution, sale and use of illegal drugs, and abuse of prescription drugs and alcohol.*

***Vision:*** *Every child in Tennessee has the opportunity to experience a safe and healthy childhood free from the use of drugs and the effects of drug exposure.*

***Mission:***

*Increase training and on-going educational opportunities regarding issues faced by drug-endangered children and their families. This includes prevention, recognition, response, intervention and follow up for the public and private sectors responsible for the care of children.*

### Article II. Definition of Drug Endangered Children

Drug endangered children (DEC) are those children who suffer neglect, physical and psychological harm resulting from exposure to illegal drugs, abuse of prescription drugs and alcohol, persons under the influence, or exposure to dangerous environments where drugs are being manufactured or chemicals used to make drugs are accessible.

### Article III. Goals for TADEC

- I. Increase public awareness of the danger to children who are exposed to drugs.
- II. Increase training and on-going educational opportunities regarding issues faced by drug-endangered children. This includes prevention, recognition,

response, intervention, and follow up for the public and private sectors responsible for the care of children.

- III. Provide leadership to increase the collaborative capacity at the state and local levels to recognize and address the needs of drug-endangered children.

#### **Article IV. Categories and Partners on the TADEC**

- I. Treatment Community
  - a. Tennessee Department of Health
  - b. Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities
  - c. Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association
  - d. Emergency Medical Services
  
- II. Education Community
  - a. Administrative Office of the Courts
  - b. You Have the Power
  - c. Tennessee Department of Education
  - d. Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
  - e. Tennessee National Guard, Drug Reduction Unit
  
- III. Criminal Justice Community
  - a. Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
  - b. Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference
  - c. Tennessee Department of Correction
  - d. United States Attorneys' Offices in Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of Tennessee
  - e. Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police
  - f. Tennessee Public Defenders conference
  - g. Office of Criminal Justice Programs
  - h. Drug Enforcement Administration
  
- IV. Child and Community Service Agencies
  - a. Tennessee Department of Children's Services
  - b. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions Across Tennessee
  - c. Tennessee Chapter of Child Advocacy Centers
  - d. Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
  - e. Tennessee Commission on National & community Services
  - f. Select Committee on Children & Youth

#### **Article V. Executive Committee**

- I. The Executive Committee of TADEC shall consist of nine TADEC members, elected by the members, for a term of 1 year. The Executive Committee will

be composed of at least two representatives from each of the four above-referenced Article IV categories. A three-person Nominating Committee will be elected by TADEC members. The Nominating Committee will make recommendations from which TADEC members will vote. A term will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> and end on December 31<sup>st</sup> with elections taking place in November. There will be no limit to the number of terms an individual may have on the Executive Board.

- II. The Executive Board members shall be selected by simple majority vote of the TADEC
  - a. Chairperson: Responsibilities include presiding over meetings of the Executive Board and TADEC meetings. Will act as the official liaison between TADEC and other community agencies and groups. May perform special duties as assigned by the Board.
  - b. Vice Chairperson: Responsibilities include providing assistance to the chairperson as needed. Will preside over meetings when chairperson is unavailable. This individual must have the ability to work closely with the chairperson as they will assume chairperson responsibilities at the conclusion of their Vice Chairperson term. May perform special duties as assigned by the Board.
  - c. Secretary: Responsibilities include taking the official minutes at each meeting of both the Executive Board meetings and TADEC meetings. If unable to attend a meeting, it is their responsibility to find a substitute to take the minutes during that meeting. Responsible for distributing the meeting minutes to the committee members within two weeks of the meeting date. May perform special duties as assigned by the Board.
  - d. Treasurer: Responsibilities include handling all funds associated with TADEC activities. Must have integrity and must have a demonstrative record of responsibility. May perform special duties as assigned by the Board.
  - e. At Large members: Responsibilities include providing support and assistance to the Executive Board and TADEC. May perform special duties as assigned by the Board.
  
- III. The records of TADEC may be kept by the President and Secretary
  
- IV. Meetings shall be held at the call of the president or any member of the Board. Meetings may be conducted in person, by telephone, or electronically, as may be deemed appropriate to facilitate the effective operation of TADEC. The Executive Board will meet a minimum of four times per year and TADEC will meet a minimum of twice a year.

## **Article VI. Reports and Filings**

**Article VII. Amendments**

Amendments to these by-laws may be adopted in agreement from the group members or the Board of Directors.