



F A M A C
Family Mediators' Association of the Cape

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**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Family Mediators' association of the Cape held on
Wednesday 26th March 2008 at The Hellenic Community
Centre, Green Point, Cape Town**

1. A cocktail party was held at 17h30 to which all FAMAC members and various family law practitioners were invited. Following the cocktail party, the meeting was addressed by the keynote speaker, Prof. Kader Asmal.
2. The chairperson's report was circulated. Astrid Martalas and Terence Matzdorff (outgoing co-chairpersons) delivered the report.
3. The annual income and expenditure statement was circulated and the outgoing treasurer, Meagen Hendricks, delivered this report. The healthy – and better than ever – state of FAMAC's finances was noted.
4. John O'Leary gave input on progress regarding the establishment of a National Council of Mediators. This is a body which it is intended will:
 - (a) maintain lists of accredited mediators nationally;
 - (b) ensure adequate accreditation standards nationally;
 - (c) establish links nationally with and between associations / organisations active in the field of family mediation in their own regional areas.

The following resolution was proposed, seconded and passed at the meeting:

FAMAC supports the concept of the formation of a national council for family mediators to maintain lists of accredited mediators and ensure adequate accreditation standards. FAMAC further resolves that the constitution of this body should be negotiated with other mediation organisations active in the family mediation field elsewhere in the country and with the Office of the Family Advocate and other interested government agencies. A member of the FAMAC executive committee shall be mandated to represent FAMAC in these negotiations.

5. Sheila Pollard proposed reverting to a previous structure for the executive committee in the coming year as follows:
 - (a) two co-chairpersons elected at the AGM;
 - (b) a treasurer elected at the AGM;
 - (c) a secretary elected at the AGM;
 - (d) additional members co-opted by the elected office-bearers to lead sub-committees in respect of particular portfolios, such portfolios to be decided upon by the executive committee.
6. Sheila Pollard proposed that monthly FAMAC meetings be divided strictly into separate sessions:
 - (i) Executive committee meeting (to be attended by members of the executive committee);
 - (ii) General meeting to be attended by all FAMAC members (whether accredited or not) to include case studies, guest speakers, role-plays and general discussion on topics related to family mediation.

Sheila further proposed that the monthly executive committee meeting commence at 19h00 and the general meeting at 20h00 on the last Wednesday of each month (excluding June and December each year).

Ian Gillespie supported the proposal of the divided monthly meetings but proposed that the general meeting be held at 19h00 and the executive committee meeting at 20h00. A vote was taken and Ian's proposal was carried.

Accordingly, with immediate effect, monthly meetings will be structured and held as follows:

General meeting (all welcome) at 19h00

Executive committee meeting (committee members only) at 20h00

7. Sheila Pollard proposed that the initial and annual accreditation requirements of at least 3 co-mediated sessions with an accredited mediator plus one written summary, be increased to at least 6 co-mediated sessions with an accredited mediator plus 6 summaries. Sue Folb proposed that, where the trainee mediator is involved in a full multi-session divorce co-mediation, one summary of the full co-mediation process should suffice. These and other matters relating to accreditation were debated in the meeting at some length. The opinions expressed at the AGM in this regard will be taken into account by the executive committee when making decisions about future accreditation requirements. It was made clear that any proposed changes to existing accreditation requirements will apply only to future trainees and will not be retroactive in their implementation.
8. Sheila Pollard proposed that an accredited mediator should not co-mediate with a trainee until the former (referred to as a "mentor mediator") has completed a minimum of 10 mediation sessions following his / her own accreditation. These 10 sessions may be solo mediations or co-mediation sessions with another "mentor mediator". The proposal was seconded and passed at the AGM.
9. Under "General Matters", Elmarie Neilson raised the issue of proposed amendments to the FAMAC Constitution. These proposed amendments had been timeously circulated in a document, by e-mail, amongst the FAMAC membership. However, as the majority of the members present at the AGM had not read the document, the proposed amendments could not be put to the vote at the AGM. It was therefore suggested that a Special General Meeting be held for the specific purpose of discussing and voting on the proposed amendments to the FAMAC Constitution. The SGM will take the place of the ordinary monthly general FAMAC meeting in April.
10. The following office-bearers were nominated, seconded and elected at the AGM:
 - Co-chairperson (lawyer): John O'Leary
 - Co-chairperson (mental health practitioner): Sue Folb
 - Secretary: Joy Wilkin
 - Treasurer: Sheila Pollard

The meeting was closed at 21h00.