



APIL Membership Policy.

1. Policy statement:

- 1.1 The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) is a not –for –profit campaign group which has been committed to supporting injured people/victims of negligence for over 30 years. Our vision is of a society without needless injury but, when people are injured, they receive the justice they need to rebuild their lives.
- 1.2 APIL is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcomes all new members. Any powers contained within this policy shall not be exercised by the Executive Committee (“EC”) in a manner that discriminates between applicants by reason of their race, sex, nationality, ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, political or religious beliefs.

2. About this policy:

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to:

- 2.1.1 Set out the types of membership offered by APIL;
- 2.1.2 Set out the eligibility criteria for each category of membership.

3. Personnel responsible for implementing the policy:

- 3.1 The APIL EC has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and are required to review and approve the policy at least once every two years.
- 3.2 All amendments to this policy require approval by the EC.

4. Category of membership:

- 4.1 APIL offer three types of membership, which enables our members to decide which level of membership suits their needs. The three categories of membership are:
 - 4.1.1 Legal Practitioner
 - 4.1.2 Associate
 - 4.1.3 Affiliate
- 4.2 The benefits associated with each type of membership is available to view on the APIL website and is set by the EC.
- 4.3 Honorary Life membership is awarded by the EC. Honorary Life members are exempt from paying an annual subscription fee to APIL.
- 4.4 Academics who are employed in a recognised UK University and, as part of that role are engaged in teaching, research or scholarship within the discipline of Law may apply to be an Associate member of APIL and will be designated an “Academic Associate Member.”



4.5 Legal Practitioner Members, Academic Associate and Honorary Life Members are voting members. All other types of membership do not fall eligible to vote.

4.6 For the avoidance of doubt the rights of a Member shall not be transferrable.

4.7 To assist with the transitional arrangements related to the new membership categories the definition of 'Paralegal' member will be retained until April 2025. A 'Paralegal' member is defined as 'a person in a permanent legal position either running a caseload, or assisting with a caseload under supervision which is predominantly for the injured or victims of accidents.'

5. Application for Membership:

5.1 Every individual applying for APIL membership should complete an application for membership, the form of which shall be prescribed by the EC. It shall be open to the EC to approve different forms of application for some or all membership classes.

5.2 All applications for, and applications for renewal of, membership must include an acceptance by the applicants of the relevant declaration, and adherence to APIL Code of Conduct. The declarations and the APIL Code of Conduct can be found on the APIL website.

5.3. The right of admission to Membership shall be vested in the EC who may without showing cause refuse to admit any person as a Member of the Association. The EC shall be entitled to delegate its powers to the APIL Secretary

5.4 Membership of APIL is normally granted on an annual basis unless otherwise determined by the EC.

6. Responsibilities of Members:

Every Member shall subscribe to the Association's Code of Conduct.

7. Accreditation:

APIL offers an accreditation scheme to Legal Practitioner members. A member who successfully applies for and achieves accredited status will be referred to as an accredited member and be noted as having achieved one of the levels of accreditation, the levels of which shall be prescribed by the EC from time to time. It shall be open to the EC to approve different levels of accreditation for some or all membership classes. Full details on how to apply for accreditation are contained on the APIL website.

8. Ceasing to be a Member:

8.1 Any Member may withdraw from the APIL Membership by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.

8.2 Any person ceasing by any means to be a Member shall remain liable for, and shall pay to APIL, all monies due from them to APIL at the time of them ceasing to be a Member or for which they may become liable under the provisions of APIL's Articles of Association.



9. Termination or Suspension of Membership:

10.1 APIL Membership may be terminated or suspended forthwith by notice from the EC to the Member as follows:

10.1.1. if any Member (in the absolute discretion of the EC) ceases to qualify for the category of Membership to which they have subscribed;

10.1.2. if any Member of APIL shall be struck off, disqualified, disbarred or suspended from practice by the Member's professional governing body;

10.1.3. if any Member shall in the opinion of the EC have breached the APIL Code of Conduct; enforcement of the Code of Conduct shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure set out in the Code of Conduct as amended from time to time. The EC shall for the avoidance of doubt have the power to suspend membership of APIL pending the investigation of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct if it forms the view that it is appropriate to do so.

10.1.4. if any Member shall have failed to pay any subscription within three months of the due date or shall in the absolute opinion of the EC fail to comply with any rules or bye-laws of the Association.

10.2. The EC retains the right to withdraw the membership of an Honorary Life Member at any time. The Life Member may appeal that decision by following the procedure set out in APIL's Code of Conduct.

