



Legal Steps to Separation from CAMFT

Based on legal counsel specifically experienced in advising nonprofit organizations, the East Bay Chapter of CAMFT learned the legal ramifications of separating from CAMFT.

The East Bay Chapter is an independent 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization and files its own taxes. The organization is governed by its members through its elected Board, and is independent of CAMFT. We are allowed to use the name "Chapter of CAMFT," under the Chapter Agreement signed in 2016. This is a contract between the State Association, CAMFT, and the East Bay Chapter. This contract is open-ended, and can be terminated by either party, at any time.

Many years ago a group called East Bay Therapists, decided to become a chapter of CAMFT; this is the origin of East Bay CAMFT. Now, this organization has a choice to remain as a chapter of CAMFT, or to return to being an independent organization.

Based on feedback from the General Membership Meeting on March 18, 2017 and other input from members, the East Bay Board will consider if and when a vote to rescind the Chapter Agreement is appropriate. Our legal counsel has confirmed that the members can reject the Chapter Agreement and dis-affiliate from CAMFT with a simple majority, provided that a quorum (10% of the membership) is met.

If the members vote to terminate the Chapter Agreement, the Board will write new bylaws that reflect the removal of the name "Chapter of CAMFT" throughout the text. We will also file for a name change with the California Secretary of State. These new bylaws must be adopted by the members through another vote, which again requires only a simple majority with 10% quorum.

Once a new identity has been created, the Board will write a letter to State CAMFT, terminating the Chapter Agreement. After that, there would be no further affiliation with CAMFT.

All assets of the organization remain with the newly independent organization, which remains the same nonprofit mutual benefit corporation with 501(c)(6) status that it has always been. Only its name and its bylaws will change, along with the welcome possibility of expanded objectives.