



# Kansas Association of the Deaf, Inc.

## Articles of Incorporation

## **ARTICLE I - NAME AND REGISTERED OFFICE**

### **Section 1.1**

#### **Name**

The name of this corporation shall be Kansas Association of the Deaf, Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as "KAD" or "the Corporation").

### **Section 1.2**

#### **Registered Office**

The registered office of the Corporation shall be located at 455 East Park Street, Olathe, Kansas 66061.

### **Section 1.3.**

#### **Registered Agent**

The Corporation shall maintain a registered agent in the State of Kansas as required by law. The Board of Directors may change the registered agent and office as permitted under Kansas law.

## **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

### **Section 2.1**

#### **Mission**

The Corporation is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and promoting the civil, human, linguistic, and Deaf Gain rights of the Deaf in Kansas.

### **Section 2.2**

#### **Tax Status**

This Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and advocacy purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as now enacted or hereafter amended.

### **Section 2.3**

#### **Specific Purposes**

The specific purposes of the Corporation shall include:

- A.** Advocating for systemic changes that preserve, protect and promote the civil, human, linguistic, and Deaf Gain rights;
- B.** Uplifting Deaf individuals and communities through education, advocacy, and sharing of Deaf-Same narratives, lenses, and experiences;
- C.** Celebrating and promoting the diverse spectrum of visual, spatial, and tactile languages used by Deaf communities;

- D. Supporting the development of Deaf leaders who transform their communities through recognition of biocultural and biolinguistic diversity;
- E. Advancing the understanding and appreciation of Deaf Gain as vital to human diversity;
- F. Challenging audism and linguisticism while promoting equitable access and inclusion;
- G. Fostering spaces that honor the intersectional identities within Deaf communities.

**Section 2.4**

**Funds Usage**

All funds, whether income or principal, and whether acquired by gift, contribution, or otherwise, shall be devoted to advancing these purposes in service of the Deaf community's rightful place in a thriving, biodiverse humankind.

## **ARTICLE III - CORPORATION**

**Section 3.1**

**Status**

The Corporation shall operate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and incorporated in the State of Kansas since 1909.

**Section 3.2**

**Operations**

The Corporation shall focus on promoting the diverse biocultural and biolinguistic aspects that contribute to human diversity through charitable, advocacy, educational, and cultural endeavors.

**Section 3.3**

**Limitations**

The Corporation shall abstain from significant lobbying or political campaign activities as defined by the Internal Revenue Code and Kansas state law.

## **ARTICLE IV - VISION AND PERPETUAL EXISTENCE**

**Section 4.1**

**Duration**

The Corporation shall have perpetual existence unless dissolved according to law.

**Section 4.2****Vision**

The Corporation aims to spotlight the diverse realm of the Deaf community, who possess and celebrate the enhanced visual, spatial, and tactile skills; embrace a powerful identity by harnessing visual and tactile languages that surpass the boundaries of spoken languages, concurrently acknowledging their unique historical, cultural, and linguistic realities, to forge profound global connections; thereby fortifying our state association's resolve to build and sustain a societal fabric steeped in bio-cultural diversity and inclusivity.

**Section 4.3****Continuity**

The Corporation shall maintain continuous operations in pursuit of its vision and mission, adapting as needed to serve the evolving needs of the Deaf community while preserving its fundamental purposes.

**ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Section 5.1****Governance**

The Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors.

**Section 5.2****Structure**

The number, qualifications, terms of office, and manner of election of the Directors shall be as specified in the Bylaws of the Corporation.

**Section 5.3****Authority**

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to manage the affairs of the Corporation as provided in the Bylaws.

**ARTICLE VI - ASSETS AND OPERATIONS****Section 6.1****Nonprofit Status**

The Corporation shall operate without capital stock and shall not be operated for profit.

**Section 6.2**

**Assets**

All assets of the Corporation shall be dedicated to its charitable and educational purposes.

**Section 6.3**

**Earnings**

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any private individual or member.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 7.1**

**Eligibility**

The Corporation shall be open to all Deaf or non-Deaf individuals committed to the mission of promoting Deafhood journeys, without prejudice based on education, race, color, creed, sex, gender, religion, ethnic origin, or diversability.

**Section 7.2**

**Structure**

The Corporation shall maintain such classes of membership as specified in the Bylaws.

**Section 7.3**

**Rights**

Members shall have such rights and privileges as prescribed in the Bylaws of the Corporation.

## **ARTICLE VIII - LIMITATIONS**

**Section 8.1**

**Private Benefit**

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers, members, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

**Section 8.2**

**Political Activity**

The Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

**Section 8.3**

**Legislative Activity**

The Corporation may engage in educational activities, expert testimony, and issue advocacy to advance its charitable purposes, provided such activities constitute an insubstantial part of its total activities as defined by Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). This includes providing information and expertise to legislative bodies regarding issues affecting the Deaf community in Kansas.

**Section 8.4**

**Operational Restrictions**

The Corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**ARTICLE IX - DISSOLUTION**

**Section 9.1**

**Process**

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities, dispose of all assets of the Corporation.

**Section 9.2**

**Asset Distribution**

All assets shall be distributed exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation to the National Black Deaf Advocates, Inc. in North Carolina, provided it continues to qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Section 9.3**

**Alternative Distribution**

If the designated organization no longer exists or does not qualify, assets shall be distributed to a 501(c)(3) multicultural organization dedicated to defending and advancing the civil, human, and linguistic rights of Deaf Americans, aiming to spotlight Deaf communities' signed languages, culture, identities, and distinctive perspectives.

**Section 9.4**

**Court Authority**

Any assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the county where the principal office is located, exclusively for such purposes or to organizations operated exclusively for such purposes.