



By Law 1: General Society Policies

- a. The Society shall conduct its operations in a responsible manner, and shall always seek to uphold the highest ethical standards in every activity it undertakes.
- b. The Society does not promote, recommend or endorse any proven or proposed therapy or treatment for any condition.
- c. The Society does not provide medical advice.
- d. The Society recognises that individuals with ME/CFS may seek medical care and treatment from any of a wide variety of health practitioners, including those who practise alternative or complementary medicine. Because only a qualified medical practitioner can diagnose ME/CFS and because other illnesses can occur in conjunction with ME/CFS, the Society encourages individuals to seek medical diagnosis and care from legally qualified medical practitioners. The Society neither encourages nor discourages individuals from seeking care and treatment from other practitioners.
- e. Individuals shall not be permitted to use their association with the Society to further their financial interests.
- f. The Society does not publish in Emerge or on the website personal testimonies about treatments or therapies in which the author has a financial interest.
- g. The medical information presented in Emerge shall focus on the results, activities and ideas of suitably qualified researchers and clinicians, particularly those of recognised institutions such as universities and hospitals.
- h. All Society's Support Group Leaders and Support Line Volunteers are required to be financial members of the Society. Each Support Group Leader and Support Line Volunteer will be provided with a manual which will guide them in their activities and allow them to understand what policies and procedures are to be undertaken. All Volunteers must submit a CV.
- i. Office volunteers must work under the supervision of the office coordinator or member of staff (or equivalent). Volunteers who are members of the Society can commence working in the office at the discretion of the Office Management Team or

Executive Director under the procedures set down by the Office Management Team or Executive Director. All volunteers must submit a CV.

- j. In line with Department of Human Services policy all volunteers who may come into contact with sensitive information must pass a satisfactory police check. This includes Office and Support Line Volunteers and Support Group Convenors.
- k. Researchers, doctors and other professionals who approach the Society wishing to involve Society members in studies or research projects must provide the following information before the request will be considered by the Committee of Management:
 - i. Evidence that the project has been approved by the relevant institutional ethics committee
 - ii. Sufficient information to enable the Committee of Management to understand the objectives and nature of the study
 - iii. In the case of students, the following must be supplied:
 - Evidence that the project has been authorised by the relevant academic department

Individual Society members will be invited to participate in studies and research projects only after the above information has been reviewed and approval given by the Committee of Management. The Society will have no further involvement with the study or research project.

The approval of the Committee of Management is required before the Society will incur any cost in relation to any study or research project.

- l. Additional policies that the Society holds such as our Privacy Policy are detailed under separate cover.