



**International MOMS Club®
Fact Sheet**

**Important Information
about your
Chapter Bylaws**

This Fact Sheet helps explain the individual sections of the Chapter Bylaws. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Primary Coordinator who works with your chapter!

ESTABLISHMENT (Article 1. Section 1)

The “mother” organization, the MOMS Club, is a California nonprofit corporation, registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) publicly supported charity. The international MOMS Club was incorporated to protect the goals of specifically supporting all at-home mothers.

Because the terms “MOMS Club” and “MOMS Offering Moms Support,” as well as the mother and children logo, are trademarks of the corporation, only authorized chapters may use those names and symbols.

NAME (Article 1. Section 2)

Each local group is identified by the name “MOMS Club” and an area designation. For example, a group in a mythical California “Ourtown” would be called the “MOMS Club of Ourtown, CA.”

Who chooses that geographic designation? You express your preference of the area you wish your group to serve. The International MOMS Club will review that preference and either approve it or work with you to modify it to be either more accurate or effective.

Usually, your preference will be granted if there is no conflict with a pre-existing chapter and you haven’t suggested a “territory” that is too large.

MOMS Clubs work best when their membership is between 30-60 members. If (when) your membership grows to larger than 60 members, you will want to form your chapter into sister chapters covering smaller areas, even if your group originally had authorization to cover one larger area. If your group grows extremely large – nearing 100 members, for example – you may be asked to form smaller sister chapters so they will be more manageable for you and offer greater support within your community. This will only be done to help your chapter and its members.

In smaller towns, a chapter may be designated by the town name or as a combination of a few very small communities. In extremely rural areas, a chapter may be designated as the “MOMS Club of (name of town) Area,” which means that the chapter may draw from the general area of their community.

(“MOMS Club” and the Mother/Children logo are registered service marks of the International MOMS Club)

In larger cities, a general rule of thumb has been that there should be at least one chapter per 50,000 population. We say, “at least” because many very successful chapters have covered much smaller areas. In fact, we have found that a population of approximately 20,000 is perfectly sufficient to support at least one chapter. In cities, chapters are usually designated by their area (like the “MOMS Club of Simi Valley – West, CA”) or by the neighborhood if it has a name (like the “MOMS Club of Houston – Memorial, TX”). If you have any questions about the geographic designation of your chapter, you should discuss it with your Coordinator.

GUIDELINES (Article 1. Section 3)

This is a pretty straight-forward section. It guarantees the chapter’s nonprofit status and unity between the local MOMS Clubs.

The annual registration fee at this time is \$30 per new chapter, and, after the first year, \$5 per member (or a minimum of \$50 for chapters with 10 or fewer members). Your chapter should include the \$5 registration fee in its dues and reserve that amount throughout the year so that when your next registration fee is due, you can easily pay the amount for every member of your group during the previous year, whether or not they are still members when your next registration fee is due.

Your registration fee is due each year on the anniversary of your chapter’s founding. Your treasurer should have that information in the financial records that are passed from one treasurer to the next. You should receive a reminder from International of when your registration fee is due. Whether or not a chapter receives a reminder, though, it is the chapter’s responsibility to remember to pay their re-registration fees on time to continue being a MOMS Club and to avoid late fees.

Chapters which are “sistered” by another local chapter usually do not have to pay their initial registration fee, because it was paid by the other chapter. However, each chapter is responsible for its own re-registration the next year and in later years.

If your chapter is outside the United States and your initial registration fee was paid by a chapter inside the U.S., that U.S. chapter may or may not be planning to continue sponsoring your chapter. All MOMS Club fees are payable to the International MOMS Club, in U.S. funds. If possible, it is best if all chapters outside the United States plan to pay their next re-registration fee on their own. If you anticipate any problems doing that, you should discuss those problems with your Coordinator well before the fee is due.

We understand that some chapters outside the U.S. cannot charge the same kind of dues of their members as their U.S. sister chapters. And, the money exchange rates may make it very difficult for some chapters outside the U.S. to afford the same re-registration fees.

If the exchange rate or the local economy makes it impossible for a chapter outside the U.S. to be able to afford their re-registration fee, the International MOMS Club may be able to either adjust the fee to take that into account, or arrange for a chapter inside the U.S. to sponsor yours for another year. If your chapter outside the U.S. can afford the regular re-registration fee, that will enable us to continue to offer assistance to those in other areas who cannot afford it.

All registration fees may be adjusted without advance notice. There has only been one increase since the MOMS Club was started in 1983, but we must have the flexibility to change the fee if the need arises.

If there are any changes in the registration fee, your chapter's president will be notified either by mail, email, in a newsletter from their Coordinator, on the Prezlist (our email list for Presidents) or it will be posted on our on-line Newsletter.

Changes will only be made to reflect increases in the cost of operation. It is the goal of the MOMS Club to be financially self-sufficient, so that we are not dependent on any individual or grant.

Remember that all revenue collected by the MOMS Club goes only to the expenses of the organization in its efforts to help at-home mothers and the local chapters. We are a true nonprofit organization.

With nonprofit organizations, it is allowable to have employees who receive salaries for their work within the organization. The vast majority of the mothers who help the International MOMS Club do so as unpaid volunteers. Because we have grown so large, there are some jobs that also have grown so large that we could no longer ask volunteers to give up that much time to handle them. We do not have any employees; we do have a very few mothers who receive very small stipends for doing very large amounts of behind-the-scenes work.

The core of our support system is the corps of mother volunteers who devote many long hours to helping our local chapters. When you work with your Coordinators, please give them the extra respect that you should, knowing they are donating their time and effort to help you and your chapter.

Politics and Propaganda (Article 1. Section 3. Paragraph g)

In paragraph "g," you will notice that each local group is prohibited from being involved in politics or propaganda. This is a legal requirement for nonprofit status under IRS rules.

If you do engage in politics or propaganda, a chapter in the U.S. or on a U.S. military base overseas will lose its nonprofit status and its authorization to be a local MOMS Club chapter.

Although the laws of other countries may allow politicking or propaganda in their nonprofit organizations, all MOMS Clubs, no matter where they are, must remain neutral in any political situation. Politics can be divisive for the chapter and can pit members against each other. It does nothing to promote the chapter's goals of helping at-home mothers.

All Chapters are Nonprofit (Article 1. Section 3. Paragraph h)

This section simply ensures that all local chapters shall be operated in a nonprofit way. It's not enough to say you're nonprofit – your chapter has to be nonprofit.

Notice that if a local chapter disbands, all funds remaining in the treasury after any bills are paid must be donated to another IRS-approved nonprofit organization. The money may not be divided up among the members, nor spent on the members or their families – that is not a nonprofit use of the chapter's money. No matter what country is home to your MOMS Club chapter, we insist that all of our chapters will be operated in a truly nonprofit way. If a chapter disbands, all money of the chapter must be donated to another nonprofit organization not related to the members.

If a chapter disbands, they may donate their treasury to the International MOMS Club or the International MOMS Club's Mother-To-Mother Fund. That donation is a nonprofit use of the money, because the International MOMS Club is a nonprofit organization qualified to receive those donations. Donations will be used to help create new chapters and to support existing chapters around the world.

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES (Article 2)

Most of the purposes and principles are easy to understand and either describe or allow the activities that we discuss in the chapter manual. For information on how to organize speakers, children's activities, service projects, etc., see those sections of the manual or talk to the Coordinator who volunteers to help your chapter.

You'll notice that the fourth principle states that "there is no one right way to raise children." Each mother has her own personal style and should not have to answer to other mothers when her style differs from theirs. That doesn't mean that you should condone child abuse or neglect! A mother who abuses or neglects her children obviously needs more help than a support group like ours can offer. If you have reason to believe there is child abuse or neglect in a family – whether or not the family is involved with the MOMS Club – you have a moral duty to report that to the proper authorities.

However, child abuse and neglect aside, each group should be tolerant of varying styles and methods of child-raising. For example, some mothers may keep an extremely close eye on their children, intervening whenever two children have a disagreement. Other mothers believe in letting children work out their differences unless life and limb are threatened. Each method is valid, just different, and conflicts between the two styles should be worked out as amicably as possible.

MEMBERSHIP (Article 3)

The MOMS Club is an open organization and our membership rules reflect that. A group must limit their membership to their geographic designation, but all at-home mothers within that area are welcome.

Mothers who do not live in a chapter's geographic area may only join with the advance permission of the area's Regional Coordinator. If there is a mother from outside your area who wants to join your chapter, the first thing you should do is encourage her to contact your Coordinator about starting a chapter in her area. If she declines that opportunity and your chapter wants her to be allowed to join your chapter, you may contact your Regional Coordinator to ask for permission for her to join. In most cases, however, permission will not be granted if there is a need for a chapter in that mother's area, because accepting mothers from outside a chapter's geographic area discourages mothers from receiving the support they need close to home. It also places a burden on the out-of-area chapters that do take them. It isn't fair to the mother who lives out of area nor the chapter's other members.

Remember, no mother is ever turned away from the MOMS Club – if there is no chapter in her area, she is invited to start a chapter there. Fact Sheets on boundaries and chapter size are available from your Coordinator, and your Coordinator can help explain the reasons behind this policy and how it was created to help protect the chapters and help all the members.

While our chapters are open to all at-home mothers in their chapter's area, there is one exception. That exception is a mother who has been a member and then left the chapter, either by quitting, moving or not renewing her dues. Any returning mother must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board before she may resume her membership.

Associate memberships are allowed in the Bylaws. These memberships are non-voting and are only created for special situations. For example, a mother who is only able to participate in the summer (such as a teacher) might be offered an associate membership. Long-time members who have gone back to work and can no longer participate in the chapter's activities might be offered an associate membership so they can still receive the newsletter or have access to the news on-line.

If your chapter offers an associate membership for any reason, you should be very specific about what the associate member is allowed to do and not allowed to do. No associate members vote on anything, but let's say your chapter creates an associate membership for a non-mother who wants to bring his or her child to activities. Will that associate member be allowed to come to any playgroup? MOMS Night Out? Be very specific about what activities will be open to the associate member and make sure that all members at those activities agree with the associate's participation.

Chapters are not required to offer associate memberships, but if they do, those memberships must not be used to lower the dues for mothers who cannot afford to pay the full amount. If any member cannot afford to pay dues, the dues should be waived or reduced by the Executive Board and that member given full membership (see Article 5, Section 4).

Our memberships are not transferrable from a member to another person. For example, if a mother joins the chapter, but cannot come to activities for some reason, the mother cannot delegate her membership to anyone else. All memberships are individual-specific. They cannot be transferred to another person in the family, nor to a nanny or friend. This includes if the mother for some reason cannot take her children to playgroup – she cannot delegate that to some other family member. We know that children benefit from their mother's membership by being at playgroups, outings and other activities, but our memberships - and the chapters as a whole - are for the mother, not the children. This is a club, not a service that you are providing the community.

Memberships in one chapter are only transferrable to another chapter if a mother is a member of a large group that is forming sister groups within its original territory. In that case, the mother's membership will be transferred either to the sister group she chooses or to the one which is geographically appropriate. If a mother moves from one area to another, however, her membership in a local MOMS Club is not automatically transferred to a chapter in her new area. Since her dues stay with the chapter she moved away from, she will have to join the new chapter and pay dues to that chapter.

The MOMS Club is open specifically to all at-home mothers. What about at-home dads, nannies or women who are not mothers?

If a non-mother asks to join, the chapter has several options:

- A) They may vote to offer the non-mother a special associate membership,
- B) OR the group may vote in the individual non-mother as a full member (see Article 3, Section 1, paragraph 1 – “People who are not mothers, but who wish to join, are subject to the approval of a majority of the dues-paid members present at a business meeting”),
- C) OR the group may choose to *not* vote in a non-mother.

The decision is up to the chapter. Any of these three options is acceptable under the Bylaws.

Before you decide to admit *any* non-mothers into membership, be sure you consider all the individual circumstances of that person and how they will interact with the chapter. Your chapter is NOT obligated to admit non-mothers who ask to be members, even if there is no comparable organization for them. If a non-mother will be compatible with your chapter, you may vote to accept them as a member or an associate member. But, if a non-mother does not seem compatible with your chapter for any reason, your group should vote to not admit that individual. Remember, your chapter's first and foremost goal is to support at-home mothers -- anything that takes away from that goal should be turned down.

MEETINGS (Article 4)

You'll notice that all MOMS Club meetings (except for ones voted on in advance to accommodate special speakers or programs) must be held during daylight hours. This prohibition extends to more than just business meetings - which must never be held at night. Also included are other "meetings," like Executive Board meetings, committee meetings, activity groups and social get-togethers.

Very rarely, an Executive Board may ask to hold its meetings in the evening. This will only be granted if all the officers can easily meet during that time. If any officer has difficulty meeting in the evening, then the Executive Board meetings must be held during the day.

Under certain circumstances, social activities - like a single MOMS Night Out per month - may be held, but such evening activities should be very rare for your group, happening no more than once a month. Why? There are many reasons.

First of all, it is safer. Sending mothers with children out at night simply isn't smart, whether you're in a big city or a small town.

But the main reason is that the MOMS Club is for mothers who stay home! Why disrupt family life by planning a lot of activities that divide the family? Daytime activities fill the void felt by so many stay-at-home mothers, and do not interfere with evening family time.

Also, and most importantly, some at-home mothers simply cannot get out at night. If you plan extra evening activities, you are excluding them from participating. Don't presume that all mothers will say if they cannot attend evening activities. The mothers who need our support the most are often those who do not get adequate support from their families. They are the last ones who will admit that they cannot get out at night. Instead, they will stay silent during the discussion and simply miss the activity.

Having evening activities will divide your chapter into the daytime members and the evening members. With the possible exception of a monthly MOMS Night Out, anything your club wants to do can be accomplished just as easily during the day and will keep your group unified and supportive of all at-home mothers.

You'll notice in Section 3 of this Article, it plainly says that children shall be welcome at all functions. This includes activity groups and other functions (including MOMS Night Out, although most mothers will choose not to bring their children to such an activity). We know that having children around can create challenges, but there are ways to make it easier. See that section of the manual for ideas. Remember, we want to provide support for the mother who stays home - and that means being able to cope with children.

The no smoking rule in Section 4 of this article is a reflection of growing evidence that second-hand smoke is harmful for everyone exposed to it. You may set up a smoking area outside your meeting if you have some smokers who simply cannot go a couple of hours without, but never allow smoking inside at your meetings or activities. There are just too many people who are very allergic or sensitive to smoke, but are too polite to tell a smoker to please move.

DUES (Article 5)

For information on how to set dues, see that section of the manual. Note, however, that dues must never be used to limit membership. Therefore, Section 4 details the process for waiving or reducing dues for members who can't afford them. If dues are waived or reduced for a member and she later has other problems participating in the group activities because of cost, consider each activity individually.

For example, if a chapter must charge for a babysitter during meetings, maybe she could volunteer to help more often in lieu of paying. On the other hand, if an activity is completely voluntary - say a banquet or outing - a member should feel free to say that such an activity just isn't in her budget right now, without the group having to pick up her tab.

You do not have to automatically waive all of a member's dues. Sometimes a mother can pay part of the dues without hardship. If a mother asks for her dues to be waived, it would be appropriate to ask her how much she feels she can afford. It will give her more pride in belonging if she can pay part of the dues, even if it is only a dollar or two. If she cannot pay any of the dues, then you should waive the entire amount. No one should be kept from joining the MOMS Club simply because they cannot afford it.

OFFICERS (Article 6)

For more information about the various officers and their duties, see that chapter in the manual. In Section 7 about terms of office, it explains that although normally all terms of office run from July through June, there is an exception. The chapter's first officers, who are appointed by the chapter's Founder, hold their office for at least one year. Say a group is started in September. That chapter's officers would hold their posts until a year from the following June. This provision allows a new chapter's officers to devote all their energy toward building up the group without having to take time out for an election.

EXECUTIVE BOARD (Article 7)

It is the job of the Executive Board to organize the business of the local chapter. It is NOT the job of the Executive Board to decide which projects the group will do or how the group's money will be spent. Those decisions are made by the membership as a whole, voting at regular business meetings, with one exception.

As we explain in the manual on the Executive Board, the exception is that the Executive Board does have veto power over ideas that are illegal either under the Bylaws or the law. Included in that category would be any proposal to disband the club that did not have obvious support of 100% of the membership (more on that later). Any proposals that are illegal under the Bylaws or the law are simply vetoed in committee by the Executive Board and are never brought up to the membership for consideration.

The Executive Board is made up of the President, Administrative Vice President, Membership Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, only. Any appointed positions should report to a specific officer, but should not attend Executive Board meetings. If any appointed positions or other members are allowed to attend Board meetings, they may not vote and they may only speak when called upon by the President.

The quorum of three members of the Executive Board will be considered to apply only after a group's Founder has filled the first Executive Board. Before the appointments to those positions are completed, a quorum shall be all the officers if there are two or less, or a majority of the officers if there are more than two.

Similarly, if for some reason, your group's Executive Board loses some officers, the same condition shall apply: If there are vacancies in two or more of the offices, then a quorum shall be a majority of however many offices are currently filled. This way, your Executive Board can still function, even if several officers suddenly resign or move away.

For more information about the Executive Board, see that chapter in the manual.

COMMITTEES (Article 8); ACTIVITY GROUPS (Article 9)

These sections of the Bylaws are self-explanatory. For more information about Activity Groups, see that section of the manual. If you have any questions about these sections of the Bylaws, contact your Coordinator.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTIONS (Article 10)

The rules for running an election in the MOMS Club are very clear and are intended to result in a fair and open election. You will notice that under our normal rules, there is a strict time-table for the elections, and proxy votes and absentee ballots are not allowed. If your chapter has a legitimate reason for changing the time-table, or if it wishes to consider absentee ballots, you may write your Regional Coordinator and ask for a one-time change to these rules. Request for proxy votes will not be considered. Any requests for changes need to be presented to your Regional Coordinator well in advance of the election - generally, any requests for changes need to be considered by the Regional Coordinator in April or earlier.

VACANCIES ON EXECUTIVE BOARD (Article 11)

During the time that a group's Founder is considering various members for their suitability as potential officers, the lack of a person filling any position shall not be construed to be a vacancy. A Founder is always authorized to fill the first Executive Board with her appointees.

If, for any reason, an officer or officers resign, then the remaining officers, whether or not there is a quorum, shall have the authority to refill those positions (with the exception of President which is always filled automatically by the Administrative Vice President).

If, for some reason, there should be vacancies in all the offices, then there is no one authorized to run the group or fill the vacant positions. This does not happen very often, but it has happened in the past and can be very confusing for the local group. If there are vacancies in all the offices, then the International MOMS Club shall either appoint people to fill the vacancies or shall appoint someone to run an election for the group.

RULES OF ORDER (Article 12)

Although the name sounds intimidating, *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised*, is simply a book explaining the rules for conducting meetings. The intent of *Robert's Rules* is to ensure that every member is treated fairly and given a chance to express her views. For more information, see that section of the manual.

PROGRAMS AND AFFILIATIONS (Article 13)

Local MOMS Club chapters are independent of any organization other than the International MOMS Club.

This means that, although a local MOMS Club may meet in a church, it may not be a *part* of the church. It may not be used as a forum for evangelizing, but it may donate funds to a church-sponsored food bank or other charity that is used as a non-religious effort to help all the needy in a community.

This Article is intended to protect the local MOMS Clubs, not limit them. If a local MOMS Club stands on its own, without depending on a particular "supporting" church or other organization, then it won't get into situations later where it will be expected to support causes or activities that may divide its members along religious or political lines.

Also, as with several other provisions in the Bylaws, this Article ensures that the nonprofit status of the MOMS Club, as granted by the IRS, will be protected.

If there is confusion as to whether a local MOMS Club is following the provisions of Article 13, please call your Coordinator immediately for clarification from the International MOMS Club.

AMENDMENTS (Article 14)

You will notice that it is difficult to amend the Bylaws and that they cannot be amended by any single chapter, even for their own use. This is intentional. Some of the reasons for this include:

- The IRS requires that all local chapters operate under the same set of rules for them to be granted nonprofit status as affiliates of the International MOMS Club;
- We are an international network of groups working for the same purpose - supporting mothers who stay home with their children, so it is important for all the local chapters to reflect that purpose and to project a unified image to the public;
- The Bylaws are very flexible when it comes to how a chapter operates on a day-to-day basis. It safeguards the rights of the individual and the group as a whole. At the same time, each chapter is allowed the freedom to plan its own activities and programs, according to the needs of its members. The very few requirements are only to ensure the chapter's nonprofit status and its goals and principles.

These Bylaws have worked for the local groups since 1983 with only minor adjustments. If your group does have a problem operating under some provision of the Bylaws, contact your Coordinator. Tell her exactly what the problem is. We probably already have a satisfactory way of handling it, under the present Bylaws.

But, if there is no solution already in place, it may be that a change in the Bylaws is really needed. In that case, other groups may be experiencing the same problems and should have input in the solution.

That's why the only way that the Bylaws can be changed by the local groups is through the procedure outlined in Section 1, b. Through that procedure, every local group will have a voice in the amendment and only those changes approved by three-fourths of the chapters will be enacted.

In any event, all proposed changes must be sent to the International MOMS Club BEFORE being brought to a general vote of your chapter. A proposed change may not be legal or possible, and you won't want to spend valuable time, energy and emotions debating something that can't be changed.

Some changes will not be considered by the International MOMS Club. For example, no changes will be allowed to the MOMS Club purposes, principles or any part of the Bylaws affecting our nonprofit status. Nor will any changes be considered that infringe on the rights of individual members. Changes in the provisions regarding daytime meetings and allowing children at activities also will not be considered because they are integral to supporting all at-home mothers.

Amendments may also be made by the International MOMS Club. Those changes do not require local approval and will be made only rarely in situations that are: a) necessary to maintain the organization's nonprofit status; b) necessary to keep the Bylaws consistent, either with itself or with the operations of the organization; c) necessary to ensure the survival of the organization and its goals; and d) required by law.

SEVERING RELATIONS (Article 15)

You will notice that it is as easy to stop being a local MOMS Club as it was to start one. This is because we do not want anyone to feel "forced" into being a part of our organization. If no one in your group wishes to continue with the MOMS Club, then your group can be disbanded.

There is a specific procedure that must be followed to disband a local MOMS Club. By following this procedure to the letter, you will ensure that the rights of all the individual members and your group's nonprofit status are protected. (Notice that no local MOMS Club may "change" into another organization - it may either continue or disband, but under IRS regulations, it may not "continue" as something other than a local MOMS Club.)

First, a polling of ALL local members must be taken, by name, to legally disband the club. If ANY local members want to remain as a local MOMS Club, then those members will be recognized as the local MOMS Club. This is an individual decision to be made by each member, independently of the other members' decisions. Any members who want to disband shall be considered to have left the club, effective as of their statement in the polling that they do not want to continue with the MOMS Club.

If - and only if - the polling is unanimous to disband the local group, then the local MOMS Club shall be considered to cease to exist immediately upon the unanimous vote and the following procedure must be followed to disperse any assets:

1) For chapters in the United States and on U.S. military bases overseas, ALL funds in the previous local MOMS Club treasury must be donated to a registered IRS-approved 501(C)(3) nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation organized under Section 214 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. No funds may be retained, spent on or returned to any previous members or given to any organization which has not already established its tax-exempt status under those sections of the IRS and California revenue codes.

For chapters in countries outside the United States, all funds in their treasury must be donated to another nonprofit organization in that country or to the International MOMS Club, which will use the funds to help start other chapters. No funds may be retained, spent on or returned to any previous members, or given to any organization which has not already established its tax-exempt status under the laws of that country.

Wherever a chapter is located, their funds may not be donated to any organization that influenced the decision to disband the former MOMS Club chapter, nor may they be donated to any organization that has members from the former MOMS Club chapter. This is to make sure that no funds have been illegally diverted from the former MOMS Club chapter. Funds may be donated to legitimate children's charities that have no relationship with the former members. Funds may

also be donated to the International MOMS Club to help start other local chapters;

2) The local MOMS Club manual must be returned, postage-paid, to the chapter's Coordinator. Contact your group's Regional Coordinator for instructions regarding the disposition of any other physical property of the group;

3) Because the local group has disbanded, it may or may not be covered by the International MOMS Club nonprofit status for past or current fiscal years. Send proof that your chapter's assets have been properly disbursed or donated to the International MOMS Club representative designated by your Regional Coordinator, and a decision on the chapter's nonprofit status will be made by the International MOMS Club corporation.

If the chapter is not recognized as nonprofit by the International MOMS Club corporation, then previous donations made to the group may not be considered tax-deductible by the IRS. The last officers of the chapter should keep copies of all financial records of the chapter, including the proof of how the chapters assets were disbursed, in case the IRS asks to see them.

If the local group is disbanded, the names "MOMS Club," "MOMS Offering Moms Support" and the mother/children logo may not be used by anyone in any publication or verbal response in conjunction with any other organization or individual to represent themselves as having any association past or present, with the MOMS Club.

Also, if the group is disbanded, then any mother or mothers will have the right to contact the International MOMS Club to register a local MOMS Club or MOMS Clubs in the previous group's area and no former members may interfere with the activities of those new groups in any way.

Remember, it only takes one mother to start a local MOMS Club and it only takes one mother to continue a local MOMS Club. If anyone in your group wishes to continue as the MOMS Club, they may, and anyone who does not wish to be in the MOMS Club shall leave. This ensures that only mothers who wish to be in the MOMS Club and are supportive of our goals and principles will be members.

You will notice in the Bylaws that while a local chapter may decide to disassociate from the International MOMS Club and disband, the International MOMS Club may also decide to disassociate from a local chapter, in which case, the local group shall disband immediately.

The International MOMS Club will only terminate the registration of a local MOMS Club if the local MOMS Club has been violating the Bylaws or nonprofit status, or has been acting in a way detrimental to International and/or the other local chapters.

If there is any problem with how a group has been following the Bylaws, nonprofit status or other aspects of the MOMS Club goals and principles, the group will probably know about it long before it receives notification that its registration with the International MOMS Club has been terminated.

One reason for this is that the MOMS Club manual spells out very clearly what is expected of each local chapter. If a chapter follows the instructions in the manual, there should be no cause for it to be disassociated from the International MOMS Club.

Also, because each local group has a Regional, State and/or Area Coordinator, if anyone in the local group has any questions or confusion about provisions in the manual, they can call upon their Coordinator for clarification.

Although it is not obligated to do so, the International MOMS Club may place a chapter on "probation." Probation gives a chapter an additional chance to correct the problem. If a group is placed on probation, the specific conditions and terms will be specified by International depending on the original problems involved.

The terms of probation may vary from situation to situation, but in general, probation involves curtailment of usual participation in International, Regional, State or Area activities so the local chapter can concentrate on correcting whatever problems brought about the probation. The length of probation depends on the situation, and may be continued after the original situation has been rectified to ensure that the local group is continuing to follow the tenets of the MOMS Club.

The International MOMS Club is not required to place a group on probation if there is a problem. If the International MOMS Club does not believe that the local chapter's members or representatives are dealing in good faith with the International MOMS Club or if it feels the differences between the local chapter and the International MOMS Club are too broad to be bridged amicably, then the International MOMS Club shall probably not offer the group probation, but shall simply disassociate from the local chapter altogether.

Any Questions?

***If you have any questions
about the Bylaws, or anything with your chapter,
contact your Regional Coordinator.
She's here to help you!***

