



## **Articles of Association and Constitution**

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The Clan McGrath of Ulster (Clann Mhic Craith na Uladh aka The Clan McGrath) is an ancient Irish Clan organised in modern times as a perpetual hereditary society of people bearing the same surname, or having descended from an Irish ancestor with that surname, or any of the variant spellings of the name McGrath. The Society is a non-profit organisation, open to any and all individuals as set out in these Articles of Association, without regard to, race, colour, creed, religious affiliation, age or gender.

### **Article 1- Name of Society**

The name of this Society shall be **Cumann Chlann Mhic Craith / The Clan McGrath Society**, and shall include all surnames descended from Mac Craith.

### **Article 2 – Aims of Society**

**The aims of the Society are:**

1. to promote and foster all the interests of the Clan McGrath in Ulster, Ireland and all other countries.
2. to promote and foster kinship, friendship and camaraderie amongst all who bear the name and their descendants.
3. to establish and maintain an Executive Secretary Office, as a central point for communications for all members throughout the world.
4. To create communications amongst members by collecting, distributing, and publishing information about all aspects of the Clan.
5. To research and maintain an archive of materials relating to the Clan McGrath and their ancestors for the use of Clan members, including conducting, promoting or assisting research work into Clan McGrath history.
6. To develop and maintain a library and database for the use of the Clan members in tracing their ancestry and family history.
7. to identify, mark, and preserve the historical and archaeological sites, treasures, and events relating to the Clan McGrath, including graves, castles, ancient sites and residences of ancestors.
8. To bring members together at periodic gatherings.
9. To publish periodic newsletters, books, and other pertinent literature and create communication with the public, industry and governments, to inform and educate the same about the history, culture and traditions of the Clan McGrath.

### ***Article 3 – Executive Council and Officers***

The Society shall be administered by the *Árd Comhairle* or Executive Council made up of the following officers:

**Ceann Fine (Head of Clan aka Chief / Chieftain)** whose duties shall be those normally associated with the rank of Chairperson and who serves as the Chief Presiding Officer at meetings of the Executive Council and Clan Gatherings.

**The Officers of the Society are the *Árd Comhairle* and should be elected from the membership:**

**Tanist or Taniste, the Deputy to the Ceann Fine:** Whose duties shall be support the Ceann Fine in the performance of his duties and to act as deputy in the absence of the Ceann Fine at *Árd Comhairle* and Clan Gatherings.

**Ard-Rúnaí (General Secretary)** the General Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of Clan membership records, notifying the membership and recording minutes of all meetings. The Executive Secretary's office shall be the communication and coordination centre for the Clan, shall prepare and present a summary of Clan activities at the Annual Meeting.

**Cisteoir (Treasurer)** the Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection, distribution and accounting of Clan funds and shall prepare and present a full account summary at the Annual Meeting.

**Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí (Public Relations Officer)** the P.R.O. shall prepare or assist in the preparation and distribution of media notices and releases, as directed by the Árd Comhairle.

**Ollamh Seanchais (Chief Historian)** the Clan Historian shall be responsible for the research and preservation of the Clan history.

**Ollamh Ginealais (Chief Genealogist)** the Clan Genealogist shall be responsible for the creation and maintenance of Family History records and assist members in tracing their ancestry.

The Árd Comhairle will seek to identify suitable individuals who will establish and co-ordinate the membership of the Society in countries outside Ireland where the Clan McGrath has settled. This membership may be organised into a national Sept and will use this constitution as the model for their organisation while always under the direction of the Árd Comhairle of the Society.

Each National Sept will elect a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and two members at large.

Each National Sept will have the right to elect one representative to the Árd Comhairle of the Society.

When specific roles and officers as are needed from time to time the Ceann Fine may appoint members to these positions to carry out the tasks required. The matter will then be brought to the next Árd Comhairle for ratification.

#### ***Article 4 – Election of Officers***

All registered members are invited to nominate persons for the Árd Comhairle only registered members may vote in election. Term of Office will be for three years.

#### ***Article 5 – Membership***

Membership in the Clan shall be open to all individuals who agree to abide by the Articles of Association.

Membership is defined as an individual member over the age of 18 years. Such a membership shall have one vote.

All members will have full rights and Privileges. Spouses of members can obtain membership within the Clan.

All members of good standing may seek election to the Árd Comhairle.

There will be no charge for membership; however this may be reviewed at any time by the Árd Comhairle. Members with the McGrath and variant surname and descendants thereof, are already members by right of heritage. Members must register as a member of the Society to obtain voting rights. Individuals that do not have the McGrath or variant surname can be voting members up to the grandparent ancestor.

Any one that would like to join the Clan McGrath Society with an ancestral relationship beyond the grandparent relationship can be an associate member.

Associate members have all rights and privileges of regular members except that they do not have voting privileges, nor can they serve on the Árd Comhairle. The Árd Comhairle can assign Associate Members specific duties from time to time. Associate membership is free of charge but this can be reviewed at any time by the Árd Comhairle.

### ***Article 6 – Elections of Officers & Annual Meetings***

All meetings will be established by the Árd Comhairle.

All Executive Officers and Council shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

All registered members may seek nomination to Árd Comhairle and nomination must reach the General Secretary at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting to enable postal or proxy votes to be requested.  
Only registered members may vote.

All nominations, motions, resolutions, referenda and/or other business to be acted upon, must be submitted to the General Secretary at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, to be prepared in an agenda.

Any item of business submitted must include name and signature of a registered member.

Any proposed changes to the Articles of Association / Constitution of the Clan McGrath must be submitted for consideration and can only be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Árd Comhairle meetings may be held at other times at the direction of Ceann Fine or appointed delegate.

### ***Article 7 – Voting***

All registered members are entitled to vote on all items of business brought before the annual meeting and all matters submitted to the membership for vote by postal ballot.

Postal and proxy votes will be accepted if submitted in writing 14 days prior to meeting.

Voting for the Officers of the Árd Comhairle will be by postal ballot of all registered members.

All motions, resolutions, referenda and/or other items of business properly submitted for the agenda will require a simple majority vote to pass.

Voting may be by a show of hands or in the case of elections to Árd Comhairle by a secret ballot at the direction of the Árd Comhairle.

### ***Article 8 – Honorary Members & Awards***

There are those individuals who by their actions, labours or deeds, contribute to the advancement of the goals of the Clans or family name.

The Clan may acknowledge such persons by conferring upon them such honours as the Árd Comhairle deems fitting i.e. Ollamh Comhalta (Fellows) or Meritorious Service Certificate / Medal.

### ***Article 9 - Liability***

It is expressly agreed and understood that all Officers and members working for and assisting the Clan in achieving its goals and purposes, will make personal decisions and judgements that may, in hindsight, be detrimental to the interests of the Clan or individual members.

It is a specific condition of membership that no member at any time, or for any reason whatsoever, shall hold any appointed or elected office of the Clan, member of any committee, or volunteer assisting the Clan, liable for any good faith action taken, except where:

- Such action involved the commitment of a crime.
- Where such action was taken to expressly cause damage to the reputation or property of the Clan or its members.
- Where an individual having custody of the property of the Clan fails to deliver such property when directed by the Executive Committee.

### ***Article 10 – Funding, Income and Property***

All property, purchased, produced, or gifted shall be the property of the Clan McGrath Society. In the event the Society ceases to exist, all funds, property, and assets will be assigned, at the discretion of the Árd Comhairle, to The Clan McGrath for the promotion and advancement of goals of the said organization.

The income and property of the body shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its main objects as set forth in this Constitution. No portion of the body's income and property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members of the body.

No Officer shall be appointed to any office of the body paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the body. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the body of:

- reasonable and proper remuneration to any member or servant of the body (not being an Officer) for any services rendered to the body;
- reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the body (including any Officer) to the body;
- reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred by any Officer in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the body
- fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any Company of which an Officer may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such Company

**Borrowing and Refunding Money:** The body shall be empowered to borrow or refund money in order to further its main objects.

**Winding-up:** If upon the winding-up or dissolution of the body there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever; it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the body. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the body.

The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members to an extent as least as great as is imposed on the body under or by virtue of Clause 5 hereof.

Members of the body shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object.

**Keeping of Accounts:** Annual accounts shall be kept and made available to the relevant national government authority on request.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ *Ard-Rúnaí - General Secretary*

Date 17th March 2012 \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ *Ceann Fine – Chieftain*

Date 17th March 2012 \_\_\_\_\_

*Lá Fhéile Pádraig, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2012*

Update approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ *Ceann Fine*

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017