



Membership Agreement

Quick Summary - What You're Agreeing To

- This is a peer-led, community-based space—not a provider of therapy, medical, legal or other professional services.
- Presenters at events and other members speak in their personal/professional roles, not on behalf of The Empower Network.
- Members may share their own services in the directory, but inclusion does not imply endorsement by The Empower Network.
- You are responsible for your own outcomes based on what you choose to implement.
- Confidentiality, respect, and inclusion are core to our community.
- If something feels inaccessible or exclusionary, we welcome your feedback.
- The Empower Network is primarily volunteer-run; by joining, you agree to hold harmless and indemnify The Empower Network, its directors, and volunteers.
- The Empower Network is not liable for decisions, harm, or damages.

This summary is for convenience only. Please read the full agreement below, which is legally binding.

☒ **By joining The Empower Network and paying your membership fee, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to this Membership Agreement.**

1. Introduction

The Empower Network, Inc. ("The Empower Network," "TEN," "we," "our," or "us") is a peer-led, community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with chronic illness and disability through education, connection, and support.

This Membership Agreement outlines the mutual understanding between you, the member, and The Empower Network regarding your participation. By joining The Empower Network, you acknowledge that you are engaging in a volunteer-run community, that the information provided is for educational and community-building purposes only, and that The Empower Network does not provide professional, therapeutic, medical, or legal services.

2. Membership Overview

By joining The Empower Network, you gain access to a peer-driven support and education community designed for people navigating chronic illness, chronic pain, and disability. Membership may include:

- Educational webinars
- Peer support and accountability groups
- Working sessions and implementation-focused events
- Networking opportunities with others facing similar challenges and building their own businesses or independent income streams.

The Empower Network's mission is to empower, encourage, and connect. The information provided is for educational and community-building purposes only and should not be interpreted as professional advice or treatment.

3. Boundaries of Responsibility

No Professional Services Provided by The Empower Network – The Empower Network itself does not provide medical care, therapy, coaching, legal advice, or any other licensed professional services. The Empower Network's role is to provide community, education, and connection opportunities.

Member-Provided Services – The Empower Network maintains a membership directory and may provide opportunities for members to share information about their businesses, services, or offerings. These listings are offered for community visibility and networking only. Inclusion in the directory does not represent an endorsement, certification, or guarantee by The Empower Network. Any services, contracts, or transactions you pursue with another member are independent of TEN and are your sole responsibility. Members are expected to evaluate and manage such engagements with the same care they would in any other professional or business context.

Presenter Independence – Some presenters may be members, volunteers, or directors of The Empower Network. When they offer workshops, advice, or professional insight, they do so in their individual professional capacity, not as official representatives of The Empower Network. Their opinions are their own and not necessarily reflective of The Empower Network as an organization.

Personal Responsibility for Outcomes – All ideas, strategies, and suggestions shared through The Empower Network—whether in webinars, the directory, support sessions, or informal conversations—are for informational purposes only. Each member is responsible for deciding how and whether to apply them. The Empower Network and its contributors are not responsible for outcomes related to the use of directory listings, services provided by other members, or implementation of any shared recommendations.

4. Community Conduct

We are committed to cultivating a space that feels safe, inclusive, and empowering. By joining The Empower Network, all members agree to uphold the following standards and related policies:

Confidentiality – Members are expected to respect the privacy of what is shared in group settings. This includes personal stories, health information, business ideas, and other sensitive material. Do not share screenshots, recordings, or identifiable information outside of the community without the explicit permission of the person who shared it.

Respectful Engagement – Harassment, bullying, hate speech, or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes—but is not limited to—ableism, racism, transphobia, homophobia, xenophobia, sexism, ageism, or other forms of marginalization and exclusion. All members are expected to engage with kindness, respect, and a willingness to listen.

Use of Materials – All content provided by The Empower Network—including presentation slides, worksheets, and session recordings—is for your personal use only. You may not copy, repost, or distribute materials without written permission from The Empower Network or the original creator.

Alignment with Safeguarding Policy – Members agree to uphold The Empower Network’s **Safeguarding Policy**, which prohibits exploitation, abuse, boundary violations, or misuse of roles within the community. Members must immediately report concerns to The Empower Network leadership if they witness or experience behavior that could compromise safety or wellbeing.

Adherence to Community Standards – Members agree to follow The Empower Network’s **Community Standards**, which provide a shared framework for confidentiality, respectful engagement, and inclusive behavior. These standards apply in all TEN spaces, including online platforms, virtual events, and in-person gatherings.

Violations of these standards or related policies may result in suspension or termination of membership, in accordance with Section 7 of this Agreement.

5. Membership Fees & Cancellations

Membership fees are billed as agreed at sign-up.

Scholarships may cover part or all of fees, as determined by The Empower Network’s scholarship policy.

Members may cancel at any time; cancellation stops future billing but no refunds are issued for prior payments.

The Empower Network reserves the right to adjust membership fees with advance notice.

6. Commitment to Inclusion and Growth

The Empower Network is rooted in the principles of disability-informed care. Inclusion is an ongoing process. We welcome feedback on accessibility, equity, and safety, and commit to respectful dialogue and continuous improvement.

7. Termination of Membership

The Empower Network may suspend or revoke membership if a member:

- Violates this Membership Agreement
- Violates the **Safeguarding Policy** or **Community Standards**
- Harms the safety, dignity, or integrity of the community
- Shares confidential or protected materials without consent
- Uses the community primarily for self-promotion or solicitation without approval

Suspension or removal may also occur if a member's continued participation could reasonably be perceived to compromise the safety or wellbeing of the community. Such action may be taken out of an abundance of caution and does not in itself imply wrongdoing.

No refunds are provided for payments made before termination.

8. Limited Liability

By participating in The Empower Network, you agree:

- The Empower Network, its directors, officers, volunteers, staff, presenters, and members are not responsible for harm (personal, professional, emotional, financial, or business-related) resulting from participation.
- All content is provided "as-is" for informational and educational purposes only.
- You accept full responsibility for your decisions and outcomes.
- The Empower Network shall not be liable for indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including loss of income or opportunities.

9. Hold Harmless & Indemnification

By participating in The Empower Network, you agree to hold harmless and indemnify The Empower Network, its directors, officers, staff, volunteers, and community facilitators from and against any claims, damages, liabilities, costs, or expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees) arising out of:

- Your participation in The Empower Network programs, events, or community spaces.
- Your use of information, materials, or connections gained through The Empower Network.

- Any services you provide to or receive from other members outside of The Empower Network.

This clause is not intended to waive any rights you may have under applicable law, but to clarify that The Empower Network is a volunteer-run nonprofit community and cannot be held responsible for disputes or damages that arise between members or from how information is applied.

10. Agreement to Other Policies

Your membership agreement works in connection with other policies adopted by The Empower Network, including (but not limited to) our Privacy Policy, Community Standards, Safeguarding Policy, and Website Terms of Use, all available at www.empower-network.org.

By signing up for membership, you acknowledge that you have reviewed these policies and agree to abide by them in addition to the terms set out here. The Empower Network may update its policies from time to time, and members will be notified of material changes.

11. Dispute Resolution

If a dispute arises that cannot be resolved informally, the parties agree to attempt mediation in good faith before pursuing legal action. If mediation is unsuccessful, the parties agree to resolve disputes exclusively through the courts of Kansas as set out in Section 12.

12. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Kansas. Any disputes shall be resolved exclusively in the state or federal courts located within Kansas.

13. Updates

This agreement may be updated periodically. Members will be notified of significant changes.

Contact Us

For questions, concerns, or to report a problem, please contact us.

The Empower Network, Inc.

Email: support@empower-network.org

Website: www.empower-network.org