

MARRIAGE REFORM CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

Foundational Principle: Marriage must be reconstituted and enframed as a sacrosanct and core cultural institution while preserving individual liberties, promoting private sector autonomy, and limiting government involvement to the fullest extent possible (i.e. favoring private sector involvement over local government, local government involvement over state, and state involvement over federal). Otherwise stated, marriage policies must share a commitment to encouraging, strengthening and preserving marriage, but accomplished in such a way so as to minimize the extent to which the government is directly involved in defining the nature and practice of marriage.



	I <i>Efforts to Elevate Marriage as a Core Cultural Institution and Redefine its Societal Meaning (i.e. to Discourage Cohabitation and Pregnancy Outside of Marriage)</i>	II <i>Efforts to Promote Premeditation Regarding the Decision to Marry</i>	III <i>Efforts to Support Married Couples/Healthy Marriages & the Preservation of the Intact Family Unit</i>	IV <i>Efforts to Discourage Divorce (i.e., Absent Compelling Circumstances) & Support the Resolution of Marital Conflicts (while Preserving the Marriage)</i>
<i>Federal</i>	Promote the repeal of federal programs which incentivize the above		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote the creation of tax incentives for married couples * Establish a "Welfare-to-Marriage Policy" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote the repeal of federal programs incentivizing the above * Promote tougher statutory restrictions on filing for bankruptcy (to discharge the marital debt) either during or after dissolution * Promote the enactment of a gender neutral Family Violence Act to address family disagreements and effectively prevent domestic violence * Promote the use of TANF funding to establish, manage and publicize private sector activities such as Community Marriage-Savers Policies to be required in pass-through legislation
<i>State</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote the repeal of state programs which incentivize the above * Promote a single statutory definition of marriage that defines what the marital contract means and contains a statement of intent from the legislature * Promote a "Marital Responsibility" model and incorporate its underlying principles into the statutory framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support discounts offered to couples (such as on marriage license fees) seeking to wed if they complete a premarital education course (either secular or non-secular) * Promote state funding (i.e. grants) for the development and support of private sector activities such as Community Marriage-Savers Policies that offer education to couples seeking to wed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Support the creation of tax incentives for married couples * Support the elimination of marriage disincentives embedded in certain welfare benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Incorporate into the statutory framework principles of "Mutual Consent" and "Responsible Dissolution" * Support across-the-board statutory restrictions on maintenance * Support the enactment of a mandatory "cooling off" period requiring a period of separation between a married couple before a petition can be filed, including mutual-consent agreements * Promote state funding (i.e. grants) for the development and support of private sector activities such as Community Marriage-Savers Policies that provide free resources for married couples to resolve family disputes and save/strengthen their marriage * Promote the creation of "Family Intervention Orders" leveraging the substance-abusing spouse into recovery rather than subjecting both individuals to inevitable divorce
<i>Local</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote the repeal of local programs which incentivize the above * Enacting or expanding measures to discourage cohabitation of unmarried couples and to stimulate marriage 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote increases in local court filing fees, etc. * Promote increases in the timing between when a petition is filed and when the dissolution is effectuated * Promote the refunding of filing fees and other associated costs when a petition for dissolution is withdrawn
<i>Private Sector (including community based programs)</i>	Promote the creation of privately-funded public campaigns and Community Marriage-Savers Policies that cultivate natural virtue among citizenry regarding marriage and raise public awareness of the fundamental principles underlying marriage and its identity as a core cultural and sacrosanct institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote the creation of Community Marriage-Savers Policies, where community-based institutions establish private activities geared towards premarital education, etc. * Promote the creation of privately-funded public campaigns that raise money to create and support private activities that provide premarital education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote the creation of Community Marriage-Savers Policies, where community-based institutions agree to promote the enrichment of married couples and encourage the creation of private activities such as retreats, seminars and other educational or interactive resources geared towards promoting healthy marriages and maintaining intact families * Promote the creation of privately-funded public campaigns geared towards raising money to create and support private activities that foster maintaining healthy marriages and intact families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Promote the creation of Community Marriage-Savers Policies, where community-based institutions help restore troubled marriages, reconcile separated families, and foster the creation of private activities supporting marriage and discouraging divorce through retreats, seminars and other educational or interactive resources * Promote the creation of privately-funded public campaigns geared towards raising money to create and support private activities that assist couples in preserving the marriage in the wake of turmoil

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